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**CANADA: Where
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**TRAVELS
WITH
MY ASS**
P.65

**What
would
President
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do?**
P.28

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THE CMA AGREES the first step to fixing the health care system is training more doctors

Fixing a doctor crisis

The norm ends is often avoided. But when five million Canadians don't have a family doctor, one-quarter of Canadians can't get same-day access to a physician, and wait lists are held responsible for \$84 billion in lost annual economic activity, it qualifies as a crisis per se. Our Jan. 14 cover story "The Doctor Crisis" examined in detail the surprising reasons behind the critical doctor shortage in this country, including a greater prevalence of female doctors and the crushing workloads that simply burn out many practitioners. Now Canadian doctors have put their shoulder to this issue as well.

The CMA's current ad campaign "More Doctors More Care" (www.morecare.ca) argues, among other things, that Canadian schools should be allowed to accept more qualified candidates into medical programs. Solving the doctor shortage by adding more doctors is certainly a start, and the CMA deserves credit for making the suggestion. But the story of how doctors come to be in need should supply in the first place is worth a closer look.

In 1991 a report by health care academics Greg Studdert and Martin Kauer, co-sponsored by federal and provincial governments and later serialized in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, examined ways to control the country's rapidly growing health care budget. The report provided 55 recommendations, among them a 10 per cent cut in medical school enrolment and limits on foreign educated doctors. Proven-

child governments quickly latched onto the now-famous idea that fewer doctors would mean lower costs, and ignored the rest of the report.

So to solve a no-entrant doctor surplus, universities were promptly reduced at and sent schools across the country. This reduction, plus a 10 per cent demographic and economic factors, led to the positive doctor deficit of today. Now, with nine years required to produce new doctors, once immediate acceptance of the CMA's proposal will leave many under-served Canadians uninsured for years. For a quicker response, CMA president Brian Day eagerly agrees we should consider some foreign medical schools can recently teaching large numbers of Canadian-born students in countries such as Ireland or Australia, at the same manner that certain U.S. schools are accredited.

The bigger lesson here, however, is that any centralised plan for controlling our complex health care system will inevitably founder on unintended consequences and bureaucratic habits. Fine-tuning the number of medical school graduates up or down is not a permanent solution. Changing the focus of the system to put patients first, as it is. And it currently stands, the only effective means Canadians have to influence the quality or quantity of their health care is to lobby politicians. Patients need to be persuaded a far larger role in their own medical decision-making. There needs to be a greater emphasis on choice, a bigger role for patients getting private sector delivery, less restrictive public funding models, greater use of technology and, oh yes, more doctors. ■

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This week on the Web

MACLEAN'S.CA

Canada World Business Science Culture Religion

Beyond Latimer—and Canada

How do other countries deal with euthanasia of terminally ill children? Maclean's.ca looks at the worldwide debate. PLUS: A timeline of the Robert Latimer case. maclean.ca/latimer

WEB EXCLUSIVES **BLOG CENTRAL**

The Commons

Aaron Whyte's recent treatise of devolution period—direct from the halls of the House of Commons press gallery. maclean.ca/thecommons

Megapundit

There's only one way to know what every columnist in the country is saying—check in with Ours! See today's daily roundup. maclean.ca/megapundit

Paul Wells

Celebrated Maclean's columnist Paul Wells on assignment in Paris. maclean.ca/paulwells

Scott Feschuk

Answering all your pen culture questions—and making plenty of associated observations as well. maclean.ca/scottfeschuk

Scholarship Finder

Search over 10,000 scholarships in Maclean's exclusive database. maclean.ca/scholarship

Inside the Queensway

Ottawa Insider Katy O'Malley is hot on the trail of breaking Hill news—including the Chuck Cadman scandal. maclean.ca/inside

MACLEAN'S 50

Canada's leading vision columnist as we never were.

LATEST COMMENTS

Scott Taylor

"Black's ability to discover that his current circumstance is not so bad, and persistent use of his renowned vocabulary will only irritate his new colleagues."

maclean.ca/scotttaylor

Adam Goggin vs. Malcolm Gladwell

In celebration of Maclean's March 30 debate between the two writers, we present a history of past debates, collected works—and a winner as the participants.

VLS and me

Web site's me as an enemy of Victor-Louis Goggin—read the script that started it all and a transcript of the Radio-Canada morning show where things got ugly.

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MAIL-BAG

'The story of Anne Boleyn's sister was given in some detail in "Anne of the Thousand Days"—in 1969'

COMRADE FIDEL

FIDEL CASTRO did arrest a tyrannical dictator, but his country needed political revolution, not economic revolution. "Hasta la vista, baby!" World, March 11. The fact is that the rebel leader released the best economy in the Caribbean, not just in income, skilled people and skilled infrastructure that was the best in Latin America. Yet so used of hearing of Castro's contributions to the welfare of Cuban citizens. Average western salaries, reduced eight in the world in the 1980s, are now a pitance. Castro has essentially become a pimp: offering his citizens' services to friendly foreign companies and charging them 50 times what the worker actually receives. All you have to do is walk the streets of Havana to know that there isn't an agent never building fit for any human—let alone a hospital. Through his "power men's" revolution, Castro has managed to become one of the richest political leaders in the world. The saddest part is that he has become much wealthier than what he dedicated his life to overthrowing. *Colin Sawatzky, Atlanta, G.C.*

IF NEVER STOPD assuming how he got the job in Cuba should always be Castro's fault. Never mind the millions of Cubans who live in extreme poverty and who, by the way, are also willing to risk their lives to escape their country despite the fact that our young American president does as he is told by the Americans. Today, all Cubans have access to excellent quality education and free health care, unlike the Mexicans or, since we're at it, the Americans. *Joanne Wojcik, Kingston, Ont.*

WETTER MARK VINCENT's description of Castro left me wondering how such a nonsensical, ruthless man could have lasted so long in power. The article never mentions those areas where Castro improved the lot of the population, mostly in education and health care, thus earning popular support. It also seems to suggest that Castro was inevitably headed toward an anti-American, Communist program. In fact, Castro was inspired by Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal. The only days of Castro's administration was a tag of his New Deal. Mexico, the Guevara and Fidel Castro, and the liberals, such as Manuel Urrutia Lora. "Would the revolution have taken a

different turn had the Eisenhower administration forgotten about its despised ally Batista and welcomed Castro?" *Shan Cadden, Windsor, Que.*

HARDLY MYRON did read Grade 8, and around that time every year must prepare a speech to present to the class. Last year, I did my speech on the terrorist act of Sept. 11. I had to think of a topic that could follow it up, not seem unbecome in its shadow and keep my class entertained. I was completely stumped. But then I read the article on Castro and I knew that I had my topic. It was extremely



well written, and I met Vincent's assessment of the life of one of the most interesting men of the 20th century in 12 short pages. It has read out substantially in my speech. *Mark Saunders, Woodbridge, Ont.*

A CANADIAN old comrade, Fidel. Scanned his people exceedingly well. The appropriate prize, The appropriate prize, The appropriate prize, The appropriate prize. *Myndy G Silver, Toronto*

I STRONGLY OBJECT to the agent remarks made about Castro by your writer in his somewhat jaundiced article. His description, "This appeared grim, his once brash beard reduced to a scraggly mess, his back curved, his face drawn and covered in liver spots," could apply to most people his age. The man is 80 years old and suffers from a debilitating

disease. There was no need to paint this ugly word picture. The photo was clear enough. *Margaret A. Kennedy, Oakville, Ont.*

TWISTED SISTERS

AN INTERESTING perspective of the North American/Scarlett Johansson movie *The Other Boleyn Girl* (sequels are the author of the book from which the film was adapted, Philippa Gregory, is saying the lead to struggle upon historical documents to find out that Anne Boleyn had a sister and lived named Mary ("A royal cat: light of shining royalty," *Times*, March 1). Apparently she had never seen the 1964 movie *Anne of the Thousand Days* starring Richard Burton and Canadian actress Genevieve Bujald, in which the story of Mary Boleyn (played by Valerie Geary) was given in some detail. It's been a very detailed story for many years. *Darryl Mand, Winnipeg*

'MAXIMUM' BOB

GM'S VICE-CHAIRMAN of product development, Bob Lutz, is a genius. "Revving the General," *Business*, March 1). The Japanese have come to dominate the North American car market because they worked hard to meet consumers' needs. Lutz's assertion that a car is not as good as the buyer's sense of whether it's a car, but that isn't enough. We want the whole package: innovative design, smart engineering, fuel efficiency, reliability, comfort and high resale value ratings.

In the past, I have owned four GM products, three Plymouths and a Ford. For my last two purchases, I bought a foreign car where I couldn't find a domestic that met the criteria. Evidently, so have many others. Now, just when I thought that our domestic automakers had finally woken up, you feature this "throw-back." The company culture at GM won't change until the head office has an attitude article and Lutz isn't in. It is more and believes like a dinosaur, it think like one too. *Dave Casper, Bedford, Ont.*

AS BOB LUTZ views the 1960s and '50s as the good old days, then Canadian GM workers should start looking for new jobs. During that period, numerous Canadians were buying Austers, Remco's, Vauxhalls, Volvos and VWs. Now, just another price rating, a country-wide carbon tax looming, and aging betwixt shopping for a car they can never and not

without experiencing increasing pain, many potential buyers may be unimpressed by yet another gas-guzzling automobile. *William Armstrong, Ottawa*

WE CAN'T BELIEVE North American customers are still not getting the message. Living and working in southwestern Ontario, we're acutely aware of the negative economic impact caused by the struggling North American auto industry. While searching for a new car recently, we got promises we buy North American and get good fuel economy, reduced emissions, reliability and something cool. We were frustrated until we found out that four promises in spaces with a Japanese hybrid. While up North American auto designers and sell the story! *Dianne Mook, Chatham, Ont.*

IT IS ASSUMED that part of the resurgence at GM involves cutting health and pension benefits to retirees. GM last half is an act

may I say, an oddly refreshing stance, although I wonder if it had anything better to reflect on. Compared to most business, Ford's focused on what Oshen has in a very high-brow and hardly unique type of way, and there's no denying that the bus is a whole lot more than that. Overall, I enjoyed the humor. And hey, I've seen Oshen's been a little bit advertising here and there. Best Of. *Hannah Anderson, Winnipeg*

THE TRUE NORTH

SOUR STORY ABOUT Toronto lawyer Charles Ralston leading a class action lawsuit that claims making blacks wear allegiance to the Queen is also in forcing Jews to pledge allegiance to descendants of Adolf Hitler, raises the point entirely on the topic of Canadian republicanism, a sentiment that cannot be rejected on the sole basis that Ralston is a lawyer. ("Take her or leave her," *News*, March 1). I think the most valid objection to the monarchy in Canada is that having a



Oshen doesn't mind free advertising, a reader says. And Preschub was oddly refreshing.

share in the past 30 years because people stopped buying its product. It was not the workers and assemblies who decided which models to build. Management made those decisions, but it's funny that you never hear about management trying to give back years of workers' losses to help pay up pension and health benefits. GM lived through a generation of bad management decision-making that ruined every mind in modern car design, but none of the people responsible pay the price. How convenient. *Robert Randall, Ottawa*

THE BIG 'O'

WHEN I FIRST SAW Steve Preschub's column, I thought, "Go no!" and I was right. For the worst Oshen looking at my eyes for cancer ("She's a winner! A loser! A retail superstore!" *Comment*, Feb. 25). Instead, he took

longer quotes will always be better to the realization of true democratic nationalism in this nation. To think that Pierre Trudeau's government needed the approval of the British Parliament and the Queen to pass a new Constitution, including the Charter, in 1982. Since autonomy. And I don't imagine the constitutional deal that would allow a province general decided to continue to be her power. Thank goodness for the fact that a word. When will Canada finally take the most of its own destiny? *Stephen A. Job, Toronto*

JUST FOLKS

NOT REMO: the days of Alton Forthright have been my escape from back to front every week. The Oshen is my first read in *Maclean's*. What an original idea and what an excellent job your writers do of adding the

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'ECHOage really doesn't challenge kids to do without. The parents of the birthday child get half the donations via a cheque in the mail. How on earth does this teach sacrifice?'

Life stories of people around the world who have eaten virtually and. Who would have thought that a weekly birthday could be so meaningful? Many times these stories of ordinary people have made me cry, and more than once, have made me gasp at my lead. Often I will tell the story of these people's lives to my family and friends. Thanks for sharing these extraordinary stories with your readers.

Pam DeWitt, Oakville, Ont.

but How about we stop trying to outdo the mission and look for ways it can best serve in the reconstruction of a devastated country? *Richard Lachy, Oshawa, Ont.*

JUNIOR EXCESS

AS THE BIRTHDAY of a five-year-old niece, I have the idea of ECHOage, the website that allows children to donate money to good causes to

celebrate a family first and other commitments and they understand they could not possibly attend every party they were asked to attend. Once again we came up with a plan—telling each of them to eat party a month. Although I applaud the idea of getting parents and children alike thinking about excess, ECHOage really doesn't challenge these kids to do without. The parent of the birthday child gets half the donations via a cheque in the mail. How on earth is this teaching them any kind of sacrifice?

Anne-Marie J. Miller, Acton, Ont.

REGARDING Michael Maclean's story about the life and death of Christopher Thomas Morrison (The End, Feb. 25), Chris had a week of good news when, but he lacked the strength to eat and positive reactions and so he died young. Thank you for telling his story. The father's touch is what set in to do it. I was glad the find death and ordinary people, showing we all can learn from the people next door.



It's still new concern for our soldiers' safety put politics, a reader asks

SABOTAGING THE MISSION

I COULDN'T AGREE MORE with Andrew Coyne's statement that "no one wants a never-ending mission," but never-ending second-guessing is hardly better. ("Oversight and Accountability," March 15, p. 10.) I'm quite troubled by the not-distant-called counter-terror policies have been proposed for the safety of members of the Canadian Forces. It seems to me that if you can get some media attention out of some thing, then it is worth leaving an opinion about. When we have good people who we were in Haiti, Bosnia, Croatia, Kosovo and Rwanda, poorly equipped, underpaid, and subjected to rules of engagement that made our jobs difficult and dangerous.

I do not recall that any politician ever said our mission is the former Yugoslavia should be linked and our troops withdrawn due to the high human cost. I guess it wasn't a very topic, but Afghanistan was it? Otherwise we wouldn't have left Logan and the NDP bringing about immediate withdrawal from Iraq.

celebrate a child's birthday. ("The gift box," March 15) In recent years, our girls' birthday parties, and those of their friends, have been, frankly, embarrassing examples of excess. But we just couldn't find a way around them. ECHOage is a wonderful solution. I plan to try this for my daughter's next birthday, and I hope all the parents who read Maclean's will consider it. It really is a win-win for everyone.

HOW SAD THAT Debbie Eisman and Alan Smith have had to come up with the idea of ECHOage. Is it not the job of parents to instill values in their children? Four years ago, I talked to my children about how many things they had and we discussed donating things to charity. I asked our birthday guests to donate to. At ages 5 and 4 they understood the concept of sharing and happily came up with World Vision Canada and the Hospital for Sick Children as their charities of choice. This has continued with every birthday since.

At the same time we talked about the number of parties they were being invited to. We

IN PASSING

Jeff Huxley, 42, musician. Blind since he was eight months old, the internationally acclaimed Toronto guitarist and jazz trumpeter was best known for the 1969 hit *Angel Eyes*. A radio hit that showcased his collection of dozens of songs recorded, he also appeared in the movie *Blind Love*. He died of cancer.

William F. Buckley, 82, political commentator. An influential American conservative columnist, TV debater, was conservative editor of more than 50 books, he founded a political movement that helped elect Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush to the White House. He founded the *National Review* in 1955 as a vehicle for his political ideas.

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A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF CONRAD BLACK

Having lost his final bid to suspend a pending appeal, the former prime minister spent a quiet weekend at his Piles Beach mansion before reporting to Florida's Coleman federal prison on Monday to begin his 6½-year sentence for fraud and obstruction of justice. Black arrived in a Cadillac Escalade and once inside was fingerprinted, photographed and issued his prison clothes—four Musk-O-Cola shirts, matching pants, socks, underwear and a pair of shoes.

Good news

The hard truth

Political politicians have built careers on the time-honoured tradition of fooling Ottawa. But it's not often you see Ottawa fooling back. While Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty has criticised Ottawa for not doing enough to support his province's ailing manufacturers, Federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty has gone on the offensive, blaming Ontario for not lowering corporate tax rates and leaving away much-needed investments. McGuinty's response? He sent a whining complaint letter to the Prime Minister. Ontario used to be Canada's economic engine, but after years of inaction from McGuinty, the province is failing. Sometimes the truth hurts, Mr. Premier.

Music to our ears

Linda Cardellini, the *Scrubs* (Syndicated) actress's principal collaborator, her director last year, has won her job back. Cardellini had been with the orchestra for 18 years when she was fired in December in the midst of a nasty dispute with conductor Doug Swadlow (who is suing her, along with a number of colleagues, over a leaked union report accusing him of hazing). Now she's back—and without having to sign a statement of mutual regard. Why the reversal? Perhaps SRO management can answer that query with a little interpretive dance, to the tune of *Swadlow in the Crowd*.

Speaking of clowns ...

In a week when the Prime Minister was accused of bribery and a Liberal MP was caught openly suggesting Brian Mulroney be hanged, things got ugly in Ottawa. So it was hardly surprising when Liberal Gauthier Turner stood dur-

ing question period and alleged that Stephen Harper had disparaged the late Chuck Cadogan behind closed doors, and Conservative cabinet minister Jean Keesee yelled that Turner was a "scumbag." But then a funny thing happened: After QP, Keesee's cost of his own ribbon and apologized for his language. Turner graciously accepted the correction. Let this be an example to all: With QP developing into a daily food fight, small gestures of civility mean a lot.

FACE OF THE WEEK



RETAILER'S PRISON: Pilot Harry served on the front lines in Afghanistan until his deployment was renewed last week, forcing an early recall.

The smell of justice

Who says Iran's judicial system is dysfunctional? Last week, a court in Iran ordered a man to give his wife 104,000 red roses (an estimated cost of \$145,000) in compensation for his recent less-than-sincere. The roses were part of the woman's dowry, which a wife can claim at any time under Iranian law, and the court has issued the man's agreement until he pays up. The woman, identified only as Hajar, decided to collect after 30 miserable years of marriage. Not to mention even in a regressive theocracy, a contract is still a contract.

Chilling the truth

Complaints by media about police interference can seem self-serving, but all Canadians should be worried about an Ontario Court of Appeal court decision regarding the National Post to turn over an anonymously sent "brown envelope" to police can try to identify the source of the leak. The cops want to test the envelope's DNA during the battle of the "Silk Wings" scandal involving Jon Chisholm—the DNA and his pictures. The appellate judges say:

Under his spell

Star Trek fans can certainly sympathize. A new study says the *Harry Potter* books series is clinically addictive—no different than drugs or cigarettes. The survey of 4,000 "Potterheads" found that one in 10 had suffered withdrawal symptoms, such as depression and mood swings, when J.K. Rowling has penned the final installment. "I feel like someone close to me has died," one respondent said. Some subjects read and drank for another visit to Hogwarts. Potions may not be the answer. As a parent, study concludes that the popular entertainment is no more effective than a placebo.

Daylight savings

For the second year in a row, daylight savings time will begin a few weeks earlier than usual—Sunday, March 9, to be exact. Canadians have grown accustomed to this annual ritual of fiddling with the clocks, but a new study suggests that springing forward—a long-standing tradition believed to encourage consumption—doesn't actually help. In fact, researchers in Indiana believe we would save millions more in hydro costs (not to mention an extra hour of sleep) if we just kept the hour hand where it is. ■

Our ugly little secret

For the first time over, Statistics Canada included questions of sexual orientation in its latest survey on victims of violence. The news seems universally bad



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Canada



MITCHEL RAPHAEL ON WHICH TV HOST THE PM 'HATES' AND WHICH ONE LAUREN HARPER LOVES

MP'S GLAM DATE

It was an event at which Speaker Peter Milliken and CTV's *Mitche Raphael* both received a riding crop on the podium to get people's attention. The Writers' Trust of Canada was handing out its annual \$15,000 Stoughton-Cohen Prize for political writing excellence at the annual Politics and the Pageants. The entertainment included Canada AM host **Scamus O'Regan**, who was over the crowd by saying, "It's open bar here at Politics and the Pageants, so this will be the first time two years that the Liberals haven't sponsored." But things got more when he said that **Stephanie Dion**, who was in attendance,



SCAMUS O'REGAN (top) at Politics and the Pageants, (right) presenter and author Jessica Scott Stille, Laureen Harper and Jessica Bailey (in center), (right) Massimo Boscori and Julie Coulthard, Stephanie Dion in his pink anti-bullying air, (left, left) Jessica Barker

Barley, who was wearing the same orange dress she wore to her press. Before coming to Ottawa, Bailey worked on *Fashion Television* with **Joanne Baker**. And who is one of *Teles' biggest fans?* The lucky charm herself, *Mitche Raphael*, who has followed *Teles' career* since she loves the show's "Beauty" segment. *Teles' business date* at the time cabinet was in its infancy

was also with him at Politics and the Pageants. *Teles' business date* at the time cabinet was in its infancy

IT WAS A BONE OF CONTENTION FOR CHUCK CADMAN

Chuck Cadman, the widow of Chuck Cadman who died of cancer, was a million-dollar life insurance policy. *Teles' business date* at the time cabinet was in its infancy

PINK LEADERS

Only two party leaders opened pink ties in the House for anti-bullying day on Feb. 27. *Teles' business date* at the time cabinet was in its infancy

WHAT? NO PARTY FOR MARTHA?

So far *Teles' business date* at the time cabinet was in its infancy

ON THE WEB: For more Ottawa updates or to contact *Teles' business date* at the time cabinet was in its infancy



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Man the barricades! Film tax credits are taking fire!



ANDREW COYNE

If you were watching the *Grandeur* after rights—and really, who would pass up that kind of excitement—you would have seen several of the bonuses sent the month, with a television audience numbering in the high four figures, to make one of those political news that people do as a side show, elevating what would otherwise be another evening in a fair living and all flow to the realm of the truly embarrassing.

What was the cause of this? *Grandeur*? That? The *Grandeur* rights? Guess again. That may be the same of issue that you then going at the Oscars. But here in Canada, there's really only one issue that matters to our artists: themselves, and their rights, making art in one of the richest countries on earth. And the specific offense that had them raising their tiny, beyond-fair film? Bill C-50, an Act to Amend the Income Tax Act. Or as it's known in the Canadian film industry. This is *Grandeur* *Grandeur* *Grandeur*.

The bill, which passed in the Commons last year and awaits third reading in the Senate, is the usual compensation of either technical innovations, but includes amongst its 400-odd pages a provision restricting the generous tax credits on which the Canadian film and television industry depends to those productions where "public financial support... would not be contrary to public policy." In practical terms, as a second-hand *Grandeur* and *Grandeur* reported, the proposed changes "would allow the Heritage Minister to deny tax credits to projects deemed offensive... such as anything of an explicit sexual nature, that denigrate a group or is excessively violent without an educational value."

Or as actress Sandra Oh, just in from L.A. to do her bit for Canadian culture, put it on *Grandeur* night, "reasonably has had a little work done and is trying to make a comeback." Producer Robert Lantos (who begged that he

blood soaked me in Eastern Promises) is "a whole lot of powerful, frank, honest, original scenes. Just the kind that, if some historians have their way, is no longer going to be permissible in Canadian cinema." Director David Cronenberg offered the thought that the memories seemed "like something they'd do in *Grandeur*." Understand? *Grandeur* in this country are being asked by shadowy "tax credit commissions," newspapers are being forced to reveal their sources to the police, but the real threat is of course a change in the eligibility requirements for film and television tax credits.

Just so we're clear absolutely no one would be forbidden by Bill C-50 from making any kind of movie they liked—violent, sexual, unethical, whatever. They just might not be able to get public funding to do it. That's the real concern. It's judgment. The public has



Sandra Oh defended filmmakers' immortal right to reach into someone else's wallet

every right, though its representatives, to decide how its money is spent. If artists don't want to abide by the rules, no one's forcing them to take the cash. If the public were really their thing, they'd go after laws that restrict their speech, including the obscenity and hate speech laws. But that kind of censorship they're okay with. It's only when the immortal right to reach into someone else's wallet is impeded that they mount the barricades.

"We're not going to sit back and accept this," vowed Sandra Oh, chair of the Writers' Union of Canada. "We don't like being told what kind of art we can make by the federal government." *Grandeur*! If you were looking for a definition of Canadian cultural policy, it would be "government telling artists what kind of art they can make," at least so long as the artists hope to be in line for government grants. An editorial in the *Toronto Star* wondered whether the movie *Grandeur*, which

contains a pregnant message, would be eligible for funding under the new guidelines. I've got news for the *Star*: *Grandeur* is ineligible for funding now. That's why it wasn't at the *Grandeur*, because *Grandeur*, directed by a Canadian, starring two Canadians, and shot in Vancouver, is not officially classified as a Canadian film. Whereas *Grandeur*, a movie about Russian gangsters in London starring two Germans, a Frenchman and an Australian, is. The committee that would vet films for objectionable content under C-50's provisions, the Canadian Audio-Visual Certification Office, is exactly the same crew of fiction bureaucrats that today vets them for the Canadians. If your film counts as Canadian, you get funding. If it doesn't, you don't. Is that reasonable?

Canada is just the start. Canadian film and television producers must pass through any number of government hoops before they can be made, distributed or shown, from *Grandeur* to the Canadian Television Fund to (God save us from Howard Stern) the CRTC, each with its own impenetrable set of regulations. *Grandeur*'s guidelines, for example, run to several pages, dictating not only that a film have a Canadian producer, director, writer and star but also that it "not damage the Canadian location, except in cases where it is integral to the telling of a Canadian story"—what

ever that means. And what's that? The film must also "not contain any elements of serious or gratuitous sexual violence or exploitation, and must not be obscene, indecent or pornographic." It seems that it is not the first time the government has stepped into the finger-wagging business.

At times like this, with the cultural industry in a lather and talk of a Tory "hidden agenda" (in the *Star*, I ask myself: what would *Grandeur* Cops do? The former Liberal heritage minister was widely praised as a champion of the arts, and not always by those whose livelihoods depended on it. So it's worth musing, as someone that the second round in question was first proposed, word for word, in 2001, by the then Liberal government. The minister? Sheila Copps. ■

ON THE WEB: For more Andrew Coyne, visit his blog at www.mackinnon.ca/andrewcoyne

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PAUL WELLS

The Reservoir Lounge in downtown Toronto opened in 1993, and by the spring of 1994, it was rocking every night. The little basement club's booking policy was designed to work in on the upcoming North American-wide cruise for "swing music," which—as banalists Squirrel Nut Zippers and Big Bad Voodoo Daddy then defined it—was a variation on the jump blues style of the 1940s. Most of the swing revival bands went for style over musical skill. But for some reason the young Toronto musicians who brought swing to the Reservoir Lounge were more earnest about it. They wanted to make listeners think as well as dance.

On a lot of nights, most patrons old enough to remember the Reservoir Lounge were usually either out professionals working off a day on Bay Street with minds of marmos. It could be a bizarre music audience. One night a guy in a \$1,000 suit dropped and fell on Mike Cassard's string bass, shattering the old instrument in the middle of a tune. The guy got up and apologized every so often, but he happened.

So this is the atmosphere of the club. I discovered some one night when I was visiting Toronto. The band was swinging hard. The patrons paid no attention. A blond-haired guy was playing rhythm on an acoustic guitar, seated, the instrument perched across his lap like an outstretched arm. He was to sing and play some trumpet. His outstretched arm was a lopsided wreck, one chunk pulled more than the other. But his playing was rhythmically acute and brightly melodic.

Soon it became clear the trumpet player was blind and, more or less immediately after, that he was Jeff Healey.

Healey had been famous for years, at least, but not for doing this. I first heard him in 1983, when we were both 17-year-old high school students. My school band made it to the national championships at the Canadian

Stage Band Festival in Calgary, but we were very far from we got there. The band that year was about two extraordinary young men saxophonists, Robert Bonaiuto and Phil Dwyer. The competition ended with a concert by an all-star band of musicians selected from every competing band. We all trooped off to the all-star concert, expecting to hear the two saxophonists settle some things. Instead we came away talking about the blind guitarist from Oakbrook College who played with the guitar across his lap.

From there it was a short road to fame for Jeff Healey. Laying the guitar across his lap gave him unusual clarity. When he played, he had such a head of momentum it was like hearing a train horn coming at you. By



Tired of the glitter, Jeff Healey yearned to play traditional jazz. And so he did.

his early 20s he was touring the world, releasing blinding mainstream blues-rock albums, sharing stages with the giants of blues: B.B. King, Steve Ray Vaughan. He had a hit record singing John Hurt's great ballad *Angel Eyes*, which is more than most ever managed with that song. He landed a big part in a French-Thai movie. He drew crowds wherever he went. It was a good life.

Somewhere he wasn't satisfied. One day CBC he hosted a radio show devoted to old-style jazz of the 1930s and '40s, music he'd never even near jazz fans know nothing about it. In 1990, while he was selling out 3,000-seat halls, he told a friend of mine he was tired of

the rock star life. He wanted to do more than talk about classic jazz. He wanted to play it. It sounded like a beautiful career path. There is no career more certain than the gritty swinging acoustic interpretations of *Shades of Blue* or *Waterfront*. And indeed, for several years Healey stuck with his electric power blues, and the crowds that went with it.

But now here he was in 1998 in a basement club, making it clear with every note how deeply he loved Louis Armstrong. It wasn't even his band. He was just sitting in, spending an evening with even younger musicians who shared his love for the old rhythms and tunes.

Over the next several years, Healey was a regular at the Reservoir Lounge. Word spread of his new vision, but never far. He started recording his traditional jazz and starting to play it, but he was never as hot a ticket with his trumpet as he had been with his electric guitar. He must have known it would be so. He didn't seem to mind.

After a while he had a falling-out with the Reservoir Lounge. Other young musicians spun it there to carry the torch until the day Healey moved across the border to open his own club, Healey's Roadhouse. When Healey wasn't playing, Healey's looked mostly hard rock, but on a Monday afternoon you could usually hear Healey's Jazz Wizards swinging a few of the good old good ones.

In January of this year, Healey published his first column in *Globe* magazine, the senior

able Canadian jazz journal with an illustrious editorial staff. Of course his topic was classic jazz. "I would like to put a face on this period of music," he wrote. "It is called a fascinating music with an equally fascinating history." By now, though, the center that blinded him in infancy was back and worse. Healey died earlier this month. It is important to remember him on his own terms. He made it to the big time, but he decided he would rather be happy. How many of us, in his shoes, would do this next? ■

ON THE WEB: For more Paul Wells, visit his blog at www.musicians.ca/pwellsarticle.



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'Insomnia wasn't always a bad thing. It had all sorts of effects, some quite positive, some actually sought out'

ELUNED SUMMERS-BRENNER TALKS TO LIANNE GEORGE ABOUT WHY THE EIGHT-HOUR-A-NIGHT SLEEP MODEL IS A MODERN MYTH

*Eluned Summers-Brenner is an English professor and cultural historian at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. Her new book, *Insomnia: A Cultural History* (Harvard Books), examines our ambivalent, age-old relationship with sleepless nights.*

Q Do you believe insomnia is becoming more widespread?

A: I do. Partly because our working cycles have become globalized. I'm often working in U.S. deadlines and in Auckland, where I live, we're 12 hours ahead. Also, one didn't used to get emails from students

at 11 a.m. just now we all do. People just work according to deadlines and often they don't take into account your time zone. It's just part of the logic of the market in people's lives.

Q: How else does the modern workplace find insomnia?

A: There's a Swedish study that talks about people getting "head cold" if it's where people get so tired with thinking but they can't shut it off, and because their body's not tired, it's harder for them to sleep. I suppose the more work we do with our heads, just among all, and the more work we do on networks and computers, the less physically tired we get and the more head tired we get.

Q: What does looking at the history of insomnia tell us about modern troubles with sleep?

A: Mainly that insomnia wasn't always a bad thing. And that wasn't always as simple as we perhaps think it was. Because we do tend to think, "I can't sleep! I won't be any good for work in the morning!" We want us something that needs fixing. Looking at the past is quite helpful in a way because it helps us to see that we've come to fear insomnia. Partly it's the way it's marketed—it's a bad like we're meant to fear depression and take antidepressants. But I think if you look at the past, you see insomnia had all sorts of effects, some of them quite positive, and some of them were actually sought out.

Q: Like when there work time?

A: Not necessarily work in the modern sense. Sometimes in antiquity. Sometimes your reflection. People might be thinking about their dreams, but if they couldn't go back to sleep, they might just pray.

Q: Your book questions current assumptions about sleep. For instance, at a dawn and sleep model, is the eight-hour stretch really new?

A: As specific to us, and it hasn't got such a very long history. A couple of centuries. Before that, there were lots of different ways of living sleep.

Q: So how were ancient sleeping rituals different?

A: It made a big difference whether there was moonlight or not because early cultures had no real source of lighting other than the hearth or the fire. In ancient Athens, religious ceremonies were held by moonlight. With us, we really tend to separate day and night, and we go to sleep in supportive of a four-day-time activity.

Q: Didn't they use sleep as a way to represent for the next day's work life we do?

A: Sleep had a mystical quality. Quite often, it was seen as a time when divine messages might arrive. It was interpreted as a time when things happen that the gods intended, that were outside your control, so dreams were seen as being prophetic.

Q: Where do circadian rhythms fit in?

A: Science is who knows what about the history of our circadian rhythms, they say that when the lights decrease, it produces an effect that tells the body it should be getting sleepy. The ancient world we followed those rhythms every more than we do because we have so many artificial animals. But I think the fact that they had to use light for sometimes was an overlay on that reality—a belief when we have a deadline and our bodies want to sleep but we need to use the time.

Q: I suppose ancient people were simply too busy worrying of wild animals and monsters to worry about getting a solid eight hours

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As you, there were so many dangers. And spiders, one's enemies, animals and all of those natural things that we've forgotten. The devil would do his work at night, and a lot of bad things would happen on his watch.

Q: Early cultures had to be strategic about sleep time, too, and do what's best for the group. Not everybody could sleep at once.

A: Yes. Roger Shkedi wrote a book called *At Day's Close*, he says there were two watches at night until the 18th century in Europe. Waking up around midnight and making the fire or preparing or remembering a dream—it just seems to be something that everybody in medieval Europe did. I think it was a natural habit because of the hours of the church. The monks would get up at 3 a.m. and read. And there were other things about it. If you only consider the medieval time, it would help to get up and make a fire, because natural habit disturbed some purposes.

Q: Did the concept of insomnia ever exist in the Middle Ages?

A: Sleeps used to be something going without sleep. I guess that's not insomnia because they don't actually want to go to sleep, but their bodies do, and the fighting of it is what makes you holy and what shows you that God is working in your life.

Q: Is it true that a person who was unable to sleep might be perceived as having a guilty conscience, as being punished for evil deeds, sort of like Macbeth?

A: It depends. I guess one specific use of the devil causing insomnia might be the witch hunt in the 16th century because of some women who were witches or madwomen, or who had other sorts of unusual faculties in the area of life and death. If you were already suspect—say you were the village woman who knew where the witch was or you were up at night—it would definitely have been considered to be the devil at work.

Q: How did the Enlightenment help to ender insomnia sleep attacks?

A: As soon as the Enlightenment started, after the French Revolution, after the scientific revolution in England, talking about sleep really negatively. There had been a need to be a new kind of dream about sleep. It is definitely the time when what became called an individual reason and individual agency. Automatic sleepings was slept but because human beings had a soul, for them it was a waste of time. People thought they shouldn't be sleeping at night, they ought to be praying, so of course they got sleep-deprived at night. It was a whole problem in 18th-century literature and art—people falling asleep.

Q: You also say that the introduction of a



for hours in the U.K. around the time also created widespread sleep disturbances.

A: That's quite well-documented. It's not always talked about as insomnia because insomnia has been underwritten about, but definitely people acknowledge that there were an awful lot of bad sleepers in the 18th century, quite well-known ones, like Samuel Johnson, who was said a smart one, but when, as we would call him. He was continually beating himself up for sleeping it, but of course he stayed in the coffee houses until really late and he was afraid of going to sleep because he was afraid of going back and that, with all the gifts God had given him, he'd be missing them. There were lots of clubs in the coffee houses and people would go there to read the newspapers and there were political debates, and death for the trade in coffee and sugar and such exchange. Of course, they didn't really understand the link between coffee and being awake. They didn't then understand that it speeds your perception and runs you out later on.

Q: So sleep people struggled to hold their insomnia all day. I'm not sure that's why they claim were involved in the club society, so that people could take themselves away?

A: They did. And there was this constant message that you must always be harder on yourself. And going earlier and going later if it's an equivalent today, it's that people can't just be waiting for the bus anymore, standing there. They've got to pull up their shoulders. We've got a shame about waiting time. We feel we have to always be doing something and so always be in communication.

Q: You argue that the spread of Calvinism also helped to spark a culture of insomnia.

A: With Calvinism the predestination idea, in a sense, was simply the thing they actually did in their lives that were taken as proof as to whether they were one of God's elect. If you studied off, this really might mean you were going to hell. So there was this anxiety about when whether your actions showed



that you were one of the elect.

Q: When a natural world also occurred in America as a sign that you had God's approval, getting people to want to be even more productive with their sleep?

A: More so in America than in England. By the time we got to the Great Awakening in the U.S. in the 18th century, traveling preachers would market their brand of religion as the one in which would work best to so negatively. It's seen as something that is a sign of being a good Christian. I think that the message "Time is money" is more of a concern in America, but it's another way of devaluing sleep.

Q: Some people believe that creativity and insomnia are closely linked. Why is that?

A: That's definitely a connection. When other people are sleeping, you can think on things as they go. And you're not like other people when they're asleep. There's a poet, Edward Hirsch, who said, "The spirit which might on sleep has poetry."

Q: So do you believe it?

A: A lot of artists and poets and writers say that, and I even would say that about myself, and some more I would. Because it's not able to, I probably would work from 4 p.m. through until morning and because I'm naturally at my most creative. But on the other hand, it also has a limit. There is scientific evidence to support the idea that if you're low on sleep, you may have a lot of ideas but you wouldn't necessarily carry them through. There's this idea of sleep is associated with important thinking and big picture processing. So I think you might have really half finished thoughts or really half finished novels.

Q: So many great artists and thinkers were associated: Franklin, Edison, Shakespeare, Proust. What do they all have in common?

A: Well, they're dead. That's the question is the creativity caused by the insomnia or does the creativity cause the insomnia? I wouldn't say that the insomnia causes the creativity, but I think creative people think



'In Japan, napping isn't like the siesta. It's more like work. They have to sleep. They're exhausted.'

that ideas. And they feel they shouldn't give up their insomnia because then they'll be ordinary. It's connected with being, it's not a genius, then as least your mind. And I can understand that, so a wouldn't want to link it to the other creative people if they think it's the cause and it works for them, then that's fine.

Q: The Romantic poets in particular made good use of insomnia.

A: Yes, I think so. It was an imaginative resource, the idea that nature has a power that's greater than all of nature that we try to harness it. It is a kind of back-to-nature idea that that means it's everything. And I think that that's not a good thing. So much of what we do today—the demands on us—we can't do most things in one way or another. But sleep isn't like those things. You can overcome insomnia with sleeping pills, but then it's even harder to fall asleep naturally.

Q: Do you believe that over-sleeping and sleep disturbances are closely linked?

A: Moving between the two, definitely. Wakes and dozes and electric lights also changed people's perceptions because before, it was just possible to make night like the day. It changed the way people use the night. People did all sorts of things. With the gas lamps in London people would go out and look at the shops at night, and it was very exciting.

Q: Urbanization plays a role as well. You call them "laboratories of insomnia."

A: Everything becomes systematic. The individual had to fit into nation system, so if you worked certain amounts during the day, you slept certain amounts at night and that sense of night existing to support day

begets, rather than it being a time in its own right when special things might be done.

Q: You say that energy is critical to the experience of insomnia because they are both time-related. What do you mean by that?

A: We can never know the moment at which we will fall asleep and that makes it anxious. Everything the we try to control, in a sense of how much time we can afford to spend on the other, but you can't calculate the moment when you will fall asleep. We all know this figure of seven or eight hours as the sort of ideal, where in fact that's true for each individual. Then we have that panic when it's 3 a.m. and then I don't sleep for two hours, and that creates more anxiety and we're more likely to stay awake.

Q: We're always told about the importance of sleeping during the shorter hours, but that presumes a sleeping leader to attain.

A: Yes, and also in the 19th century. The National Sleep Foundation has a very alarmist article about insomnia and talking us into the thought that it's more seriously important to think about sleep, but it's actually helpful to become more aware of messages that less sleep might be making you unhappy. It's the one thing we have to do every day and it really does require a letting go of anxiety and that's a tricky thing to manage. As soon as you're getting something in the morning that's pressing, you're going pressure to fall asleep.

Q: It's clear why scientists say insomnia is unfortunately true much sleep they get?

A: Yes, I think that's true. And the more tired you are, the more you might hallucinate and have perceptions of things quite right. Sometimes you're dead all a look but you don't remember that because you remember the clock watching.

Q: So all of the "imagined" sleeping pills, teas, medicines and pillows—do you think the sleep industry just creates its own problems?

A: Yes. There is an industry there, and I think it's the worst in anything that's newly identified as a medical problem, and I think it's quite important to resist it.

Q: Do you think we'll ever know a more comfortable way to be awake and less tired?

A: Maybe a midday catnap film in Spain? The way that the Spanish and Italians have traditionally done it, it hasn't been as needed in productivity. There was a long tradition of napping after the midday meal. It's wonderful to have that back in the middle of the day. I think it's very useful, but I suspect it's going to be very hard to maintain because of globalization. It does become

about productivity, unfortunately. In Japan, there's been a napping culture for longer. My book has sold terrifically well in Japan. The high school students there, they nap because if they need to get into a good university, they do special classes in the evening, so these students are basically working all the time. It's a culture in which napping is not like the siesta. It's more like it's work and they have to sleep because they're exhausted.

Q: Should workplace naps be more encouraged?

A: I wouldn't want to return to full sleep in your chair. I mean, on top of everything else. Or nap quarters. As I mentioned in the book, it's not surprising, seeing as we have quotas for everything else. Companies that want to be productive might well bring it on. If your employer knows you're not a nap, then you can't see freedom again, so sleep working, so I'd be wary.

Q: More than anything, insomnia drives people into dream worlds, as you call it, a "dreaming by night" which is very frustrating. How does one force oneself to go to bed?

A: I use the image from dance of learning to fall. It's one of the first that you learn in contemporary dance and it's about learning to let your body take you to the ground as the most natural and effective way possible. It's paradoxical to learn because it's about relaxing, but it's a movement that you learn that's a bit like falling asleep. You just have to let go and trust that your body's system will take you down. You relax into it and you trust that your body will take you down, so that's what I mean.

Q: Do you have something that you've tried to go to bed personally?

A: Yes, I got it badly when I got my first academic job. I probably had about eight years of difficulty. I took hypnosis most of the time—nothing—and eventually I decided I need to stop making them.

Q: By hypnosis, you mean sleep pills?

A: Yes. It's very common in busy jobs that go around the clock and are very unpredictable. I got over my getting up very, very early, which is the opposite of what I'd normally do. You know how some people are night people and some are day people? I normally get going at about 4 p.m., but I can't afford to do that, so I just get up at 4 a.m. and that makes me just get up by about 8 or 9 p.m. That works for me now.

Q: Is it true that Margaret Thatcher once said, "Sleeping is for wimps?"

A: I don't know if she ever really did, but it's been so often quoted. ■

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JENNIFER GARDNER FOR EYE

ROBERT LATIMER'S ANGRY CRUSADE

He served seven years in prison for killing his disabled daughter. Now the Saskatchewan farmer is determined to clear his name, and to prove he did nothing wrong.

BY CHARLIE GILLIS

The reason precisely drips from the pages. Prosecutors have employed "shades of grey and doubt" against him. The courts have overlooked "obvious" evidence "frankly diagnosed" by police and the Crown to secure a conviction. Critics who worry that money killings leave the definition of money in the eye of the killer are "pessimists" who "beguile us" with false information perpetuated by legal authorities bent on winning a landmark case. From the outset, the justice system has cunningly blined eye to the sliver of chance before him—that, at least, is how the man himself sees it—and only a new trial can expose the crime, disastrous truth.

Robert Latimer might have gone to prison a certain date, but he isn't a sociopath, following his decision in October 1986 to end the life of his 12-year-old daughter Tracy, who was

stricken by cerebral palsy. But if the law is not recently passed on his website are any better, the 54-year-old from Wilket, Sask., is emerging from jail as a man transformed—and not the way corrections officials generally like to see. Measures penned by Latimer over the last four years to everyone from cabinet ministers to the Supreme Court itself breathe with language befitting his popular image as a stoic, farmer befuddled by the tempest around him. One note sent last August to Justice Minister Rob Nicholson accuses the country's highest court of dishonesty. Another sent in March 2005 accuses the court of "darkening its responsibility to understand the arguments before it."

The subject, however, is always the same: Latimer does not see his case as closed, and the lateness he feels is not the sort to be mollified by early release from prison. And last week, with the eyes of the country once again glued to his case, he made good on his rhetoric. No sooner had a press pool ruled that he should receive day parole, overturning a previous parole board decision in December, than Latimer confirmed an earlier stated wish to live in a halfway house in Ottawa—out of Saskatchewan near his wife and two kids. Being in the capital, his supporters explain, will enable him to make his case to federal politicians and justice officials in one briefing shot at clearing his name. But even those close to him seemed confused. Asked why her husband wasn't returning to the farm, Laura Latimer told a reporter: "He does have his reasons, but you'll have to ask him." (At press time, Latimer was fulfilling numerous interview requests but hadn't accepted any.)

Even Bjornholt, a friend and supporter who manages Latimer's website, has asked Latimer why he doesn't just go home. "I guess he just feels he's been wronged," says Bjornholt. "He just wants to pursue his own case."

Whatever the explanation, the man's undiminished determination to wage polemics is no minor development. The 2001 Supreme Court decision affirming Latimer's life sentence with no chance of full parole for 10 years had given temporary closure to the wrenching debate on how the legal system should treat people who think they're doing the right thing by ending the lives of those in pain. Now, with Latimer's flight back on the front burner, all eyes are on the disabled fear a renewed push to affirm his laws surrounding so-called mercy killings. "It concerns us a lot," says Michael Bach, executive vice-president of the Canadian Association for Community Living. "This has gone beyond Robert Latimer and Tracy Latimer. He's trying to tap a pretty deeply expressed anger in public spaces that he was in some way justified in what he did."

THAT THE LAW took eight years to put Latimer behind bars is a measure of the contradictory feelings he and his case unleash. From the day he loaded Tracy into the cab of his pickup, ran a length of tubing from the tailpipe to the cab and buried on the ignition, Latimer has believed he was practicing mercy, and more so, partially, acting out of necessity. In court, he testified that death was the only means of relief for a child unable to enjoy the world around her and facing a life of unbearable pain. Treated by her condition with physical constraints, unable to eat without a tube inserted into her esophagus, unable to stand most painkillers, she had become a brutal writhing spectacle. She was scheduled at the time for a long-term operation to relieve the agony of a permanent, fully detached hip. Yet, as Latimer pointed out, at least one doctor predicted Tracy would continue to suffer as long as she lived. After 12 agonizing years, he decided that she had lived enough.

He never quite persuaded a jury to trust his judgement on that, though. Two months after the court ruled on jury-wiping by the prosecution—resulted in convictions for second-degree murder, as prosecutors successfully argued that the Latimers did have options, in the form of better pain management or institutional care. Trouble was, neither the jury nor most other Canadians seemed keen to jump him at with conviction. Dejected by the idea that his conviction required a minimum 10-year term in prison, the jury of his second trial asked for leniency in sentencing. The judge agreed, exempting him from the minimum and

imposing a sentence of one year in jail and one served in the community.

As for Latimer, the higher courts were less interested in the defendant's intentions than in the apparently happy-larvalness of his actions. The Saskatchewan Court of Appeal scolded the exemption, raising the mandatory life sentence, and its decision was upheld by the Supreme Court of Canada. On Jan. 18, 2001, after the decision came down, Latimer offered a few laconic words to the media, clutched behind his back his blue striped wages, and drove himself to prison as a felon. For his supporters, it was close to a tragedy. "I don't think anybody really understands what he went through," Audrey Woodrow, a neighbour in Wilket and long-time friend of the Latimers, now says. "He always told us that he thought in his heart that he was doing the right thing, and no one who wasn't there is in a position to say otherwise. I know I can't." For disabled activists, however, the decision was another, saying in what they saw as an increasingly permissive attitude toward mercy killing. "There were tears of happiness," recalls Bach. "One of the central emotions of our society—the one

IN HIS SEETHING LETTERS TO OTTAWA, LATIMER INSISTS THE CASE AGAINST HIM WAS A FRAUD

that bestows equality—one that for what it was, and there was that huge sense of relief."

The degree to which this new changes is up to Latimer, and there are conflicting signals about exactly what his "advocacy" will entail. Bjornholt maintains it is his right to not go to Ottawa to engage in a public crusade. "He's really not the lecture type," and the Web manager is concerned on Latimer's behalf by the congressional crowds flowing from people in the authoritarian movement. "He simply thought his case was unique and he's really not interested in comparing his situation or anything of that nature," says Bjornholt. However, another source close to Latimer, who sought anonymity because the person isn't being authorized to speak, said the parole board's refusal to release the Supreme Court's conclusion that there were alternative pain medications available to Tracy that would have spared her from the pain of a hysterectomy and surgery for a new limb—as well as the agony tone of his letters. Again and again, Latimer has complained that neither

PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS

Saskatchewan prosecution, the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal, nor the Supreme Court has identified those alternatives, while rejecting what he saw as good explanations as to why none of the options he did know of would work. "The biggest reason why this court cannot give an answer to any frequently asked question is that the claim of such a restriction is as fraudulent as fabrication of the Saskatchewan Justice Department prosecutors to believe the charges against me," Latimer wrote in the August letter. "Hence people would not continue to endorse bogus

IN POLLS, 70% OF CANADIANS SAID THEY SYMPATHIZE WITH LATIMER



LATIMER rejects suggestions that there were medical options available to help Tracy

claim that genetic tests hinder?

What kind of exception was this kind of trigger hole will go on Paul Latimer told us, to say the least, uncertain. While Latimer has received quite varied support from individual MPs—especially those from Saskatchewan—the response to his letters in official Ottawa has thus far been cool. Four different federal justice ministers have reviewed his statements over the years, leaving responses like "I can not speak for the Supreme Court by explaining the reasons for its decision in my modest" Staff of the Supreme Court itself wrote to him in July 2005, advising him, "there's nothing further the Court can do for you."

As for the general debate about mental illness, assisted suicide and mercy killing,

political support has been tepid at best. In May 2005, Bloc Québécois MP Françoise Lalonde introduced a private member's bill to legalize assisted suicide. But it died when an election was called the following month, and it seems unlikely that a minority government would want to take up such an emotionally charged issue.

SO WHY IS THE disabled lobby so up in arms? The answer lies not in any fear that Latimer will get away with it, but in his potential to act as a catalyst, mobilizing public sentiment that has been dormant since the Supreme Court was born so passive back in 2000. In poll after poll since then, more than 70 percent of Canadians have consistently told pollsters that they sympathize with him, while a slight majority supports favour for some legislation of euthanasia, mercy killing or assisted suicide. That climate of permissiveness is frightening for disabled people, says Bach, because they worry it would leave them at the mercy of caregivers who think they know best. And Latimer, an uncharacteristically bright man, is the one figure with the ability to create social success for the concept of mercy killing, which they see as a step toward separating it from the legal status of common murder.

Not that he comes across as a reasoned debater. The rage that nags his letters—"frivolous fabrications" appear as almost all the last four years—is as likely to inflame as it is sympathy. One sent in April 2004 to then prime minister Paul Martin refers to police and prosecutors as "panda men" then goes on to compare the state's action against him to that of German Nazi hitler. Echoing, among the views of two university professors. But as far as his fury has been consistently shared by an act of total immunity that comes across on TV, explains Denison, a spokesman for the Council of Canadians with Disabilities. "There is a kind of emotional identification with his situation, former politician. Many of our parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles have been lawyers. I think we see that sense of right and wrong at the stage of his mind." The legal topic of disabled people, Denison adds, is that of Latimer's case, because Canadians give him the name of a man who is not a victim. "In past interviews, he's been very vehement as his condemnation to those who would pressure to take him out of court and hold him accountable."

For Latimer's critics, the best response will undoubtedly be the Supreme Court decision itself. In its 7-0 decision, the court rejected all of Latimer's grounds for appeal, using his sentence was not, as he maintained, cruel and unusual punishment, and that Latimer's chronic motivation were outweighed by

the fact he was in a position of threat. What's more, they ruled out the notion that what he did was a moral way out of a dire situation. "Tracy's situation was not an emergency," the judges added in one particularly devastating passage. "The appellant can be reasonably expected to have understood that reality." It was, in short, a scalding dismissal of Latimer's notion that the one justified by his supporters. As such it provides a convenient escape for political leaders who wish to avoid the topic altogether. Why, they might ask, should Latimer's case be grounds for a debate on mercy killing when, by the high court's own judgment, the nation's duty is to reject the only acceptable definition of the term?

None of this is to say that Latimer's presence in Ottawa must be wholly counterproductive. The spirit of his responsiveness has already prompted community-living advocates to mobilize support for a broad-based inquiry—perhaps even a royal commission—on the quality of life of disabled people. With 1.3 million Canadians living with pain-related disabilities, and with direct driving over more creative ways to relieve debilitating pain, there is a growing sense that families, physicians and legal professionals also could be better equipped when situations like Tracy Latimer's arise. The idea, says Bach, would be to steer discussion away from mercy killing, which a Senate committee in the 1990s concluded should remain a criminal offence. Instead, the inquiry would focus on issues like the vulnerability of the disabled to abuse, support for families with loved ones disabled by pain, and the options for treatment in cases of extreme pain.

Whether Latimer would participate in such a project is another question. Last week, Latimer contacted reporter about his decision to sue the four years after his trial. In the interview, she and the couple's two kids will make occasional visits to Ottawa. A family friend in Saskatoon even moved closer to whether Latimer will be invited to attend the trial. "He's in his mid-50s now, which is when farming starts to get difficult," said the friend, who did not wish to be named. "And all their equipment will be out of date. You can't go buy new equipment all at once, especially if you're just coming out of prison." Latimer took a course in prison that qualifies him as an apprentice electrician, the friend points out, maybe he could save himself a lot of frustration by taking a job selling books. She adds, given the self-motivated that exist him that when William Butler. And judging from his own words, one more round of Rumsfeld and his head-to-head would be more than Latimer can take. ■



FIGHTING WORDS: Liberal leader Stéphane Dion asks Prime Minister Harper about allegations Fodor tried to buy Chubb, Cadman's note

THE SLEAZE FACTOR

With the Cadman affair still unresolved, can the Liberals make Tory ethics an issue?

BY JOHN CHUBB & AARON, a correspondent to what a politician knows and when he knows it. In this case, what Stephen Harper knew about overtures made to Chubb-Cadman in the spring of 2005, as his opposition Conservatives tried to oust the independent MP—whom a scandalous to court his own seat—was a matter of party and proved the crucial vote they needed to bring down the Liberal minority government. Remember, a big part of the answer seems to come in Harper's own recorded voice. After Cadman died, Harper visited his widow, Donna, in September 2005, and was interviewed leaving that Sunday, B.C., home by a writer working on Cadman's biography.

The new status of the exchange—an extraordinary affair—was made widely available by the biographer, Ian Zyswiler. On it, Zyswiler is based almost entirely on "an interview piece for a million dollars." The former prime minister said he didn't know details of what Cadman was offered, "but I told them they were wasting their time," Harper elaborates. "I said, 'You guys just

I mean, you have this theory that it's, you know, financial insanity and, you know, just, you know, if that's what you're saying, make that case, but don't press it."

Those talking words leave plenty to be derided. Directly they were planning to talk to Cadman and on what day? Is it clear why they'd try to address Cadman's purported "financial insanity"? But the premise of Harper's answer seems to be that he knew in advance that Cadman was being talked to, that Cadman's financial situation was part of the discussion, and he approved of the approach, as long as it was handled properly. Yet the Prime Minister's Office disputes that interpretation, and offers an entirely different explanation.

In an email to Maclean's, Sandra Buckler, Harper's director of communications, said that the then leader of the Opposition was really conveying in the interview interview was uninformative Cadman's widow had only once expressed to him. Buckler and Donna Cadman raised the issue with Harper that day of a financial offer extended to her husband, although she didn't use the term "insurance policy." This was, according to Buckler, the first time [Harper] had heard of anyone offering Chubb money." Minutes later, Harper encountered Zyswiler and his tape recorder on Cadman's driveway.

"[Harper] said he had no details," Buckler said, "and then went on to share with this guy what Don had just told him."

It's hard to square that version, though, with Harper's own reference to how he advised party representatives not to "press it." Had he not, Latimer are not accepting it. They have seen in the Cadman controversy in their best chance so far to make majorities about the Harper government's ethical concerns a serious vote-driving concern. Before the Cadman scandal surfaced, Latimer was trying, without much success, to make headlines with tales of dubious Tory adverts regarding in the 2004 campaign, and exposed Conservative campaign since they own power that such claims tend to be too soon played, so too familiar, and none had anywhere near the impact of a scorching tale about shadowy party operatives trying to caple a bleached, dying, moribund MP into changing his vote for the sake of his family's coyness.

The stakes could hardly be higher. That Cadman would be involved, and read with the Liberals in 2005, doesn't change the fact that offering an MP any benefits in exchange for his yes or no in the House is a crime. And even if the bribery allegation levelled against the Tories by the Liberals—which Harper threatens to sue their firms—who is never sued in court, the scandalous trial on the government could be seriously during it. Harper was power in 2004 thanks to no small part to a voter backlash against Liberal sleazebag in the spasm-and-shit deal, as exposed by Justice General Sheila Finer in her probe of federal advertising contracts in Quebec, then had by judge John Courtney in his judicial inquiry. The

Talbot says the time for their minority early by passing a new Federal Accountability Act in the spring of 2006. Harper's claim that he has cleaned up how Ottawa works has become the bedrock of his strategy for having his Conservatives replace the Liberals as Canada's default governing party.

The Liberals' India trip Harper of the claim to national superiority rests more on two questions: Can the hoop the Cadogan story still explain voter disaffection over the world? doubt about how the challenge? McGill University Professor Desmond Morton, who the history of Canadian politics the problem Liberals voters to distinguish among prepared to be notably positive. "Many people, with little about the question, claim are crooks," Morton says. "In the end, the problem is, if all politicians are crooks, and you've got four crooks on your ballot, you're more to pick a crook."

Paragans that peddle accusations of how voters may be misled is accurate. Still, Liberal Leader Stephen Harper before the Commons appears as spotlight as the Tories sponsored Mark Holland, an MP, to pursue evidence of spending, and other gossamer. Among the files Holland's letters that Harper's own MP unfairly misled in last year's election, and Finance Minister's admission that he broke a promise to a \$122,000 speech to a friend without putting

More serious, potentially disruptive over what Parliament call the in-and out affairs outside official circles have taken root—and no wonder, given that the party's 67 Tory candidates for whom it legitimized local campaigns elections overseas placed the party actually transferred its focus to local candidates, who sent the money back to the party. What were, in effect, narrow



THE CADMAN SAGA:
(From top to bottom) the
late independent MP
Chuck Cadman, journalist
Tom Ivers and *Quebec*

[illegible]

In the ongoing fight in Hill leaders over new Canadian aid to such international complex, the Conservative Party's 2006 campaign page. It is to reimburse the party says in ad costs. The Conservatives intend to do this then dignity party to pay for

parade and amount, and leaving individual contributions to about \$1,000.

But because high-profile starts, the Times' approach to accountability has not escaped criticism. Photographs and lobbying are not personal areas of scrutiny Harper vowed to end, and partisan favoritism in giving out government jobs, but this occupied the place for an independent public appointments commission after opposition MPs rejected his nomination to chair it, former oil patch executive and Tory fundraiser Gavin Morgan. He campaigned on a promise to make citizens' reviews reveal their contacts with lobbyists, but instead new regulations simply mandated only this year put the issue only on a restricted list of topics to disclose their "real and arranged" contacts with government officials.

In fact, Ottawa's lobbying culture crossed into the new Tories. Even Earthlife Strategy Group, the firm once so closely associated with Liberal Paul Martin's machine, is thriving, thanks to the firm's well-connected Tories, like Geoff Norquay and Yasir Naqvi. In 2006-07, the first fiscal year of Harper's government, 9,696 lobbyists signed up, so they are required to be law, with the federal lobbyists' registry, up 58 per cent from the final year of Liberal rule.

An Ottawa owl awarining with lobbyists and a sports sell susceptible to patronage appointments, isn't quite what Harper can do. Yet that probably wouldn't matter much unless the Cadman saga turns into an attention-grabbing scandal that puts a cloud over him.

For her part, Donna Cadmus, who wants to run for the Times as her late husband told her, says Harper didn't do anything wrong. She issued a statement this week saying that when she asked him back in 2003 about the \$1-million policy, which she says her husband told her Tories had offered, Harper "looked me straight in the eyes and told me he had no knowledge of an insurance policy. I know he was telling me the truth. I could see it in his eyes."

Bored of that exchange, Cadman says she regards the offer made to her husband as "the overzealous misapplication of a couple of individuals." Her opinion carries moral weight, and no doubt it was good news for Harper and his colleagues. But nagging loaves still remain. After all, the House Majority's conservative director had made a point in his earlier email to Masten's of saying Donna Cadman did not recommend an issue-free policy to Harper in her 2006 conversations. As for any "overzealous" Texans who might have approached Cadman, even if the evidence against their party's senators are allowed to offer an MF a benefit in return for a vote. ■

IF I HAD A HAMMER

Ed Steimach's win gives his Tories a mandate to take on Ottawa

BY NICHOLAS KÖHLER. The cracks are already there, Ed Steinhilber. Yet the fissures from Andrew, Alton, who kept his hand of Angus quite until weeks into his premiership—unmarred wounds at his victory in the Progressive Conservative leadership race—have failed the tests of Ralph Klein and Danny Williams in one of Canada's most popular political figures. Monday's leadership saw Robert Brown, who ruled in 71 of the province's 83 ridings and reduced the opposition to almost nothing, give Steinhilber a terrific hammer over on the national stage. The upshot for Carletonburg was a conflict over environmental policy that the feds can't ever hope to win. "There is," as University of Calgary political scientist David Thoms put it,

Six months ago, no one would have predicted such a stunning. The Liberals, under leader Kevin O'Leary, appeared on the cusp of holding Edmonton and gaining seats in Calgary. Yet, like a Japanese samurai who converts to his opponent's own power into his collapse, the Tories allowed the possibility of a Liberal surge to become so palpable that a disgruntled traditional PC voter who might otherwise have stayed home. Though run out on Monday, according to estimates, won an additional 1 per cent—less one than the

45 per cent who voted in 2004 in Quebec have his last message—few will quibble with the results, or the message they deliver to Canada. “The message,” says U of C political scientist Lisa Young, “is the people of Alberta are united on developing the oil sands full steam ahead. We aren’t concerned with the environmental effects. We are concerned with maintaining our affluence.”



STELMACH: 'My job is to protect prosperity'

senators linked during the election from a consortium of industry, government and commercial groups, suggested a counterstroke. The move, says the University of Alberta's Ian Usherov, was "good politics for those legislators to present themselves to the Alberta public as deeply concerned about the ecological impact of oil sands development." More than that, he says, Alberta's oil sector is increasingly nervous of regulatory repairs to the world in the U.S. that will likely shape some of their most crucial markets. So Solheim, whose firm on the movement has left him increasingly isolated, rejected the notion of government intervention, and relied the chance to link the issue with oil Alberta legislators. "Governments do not control the economy

Stephen Harper is, it goes without saying, no Trudeau Liberal. But he is trying to promise growth in Quebec and Ontario as a federal iteration of B-C in Campbell's recent election could be viewed no less harshly.

Trudeau's National Energy Environment Minister John Crosbie, in his first year of office, is looking for a way to break through the political stalemate that has been in place since the election. He is looking for a way to break through the political stalemate that has been in place since the election. He is looking for a way to break through the political stalemate that has been in place since the election.

NOT INSINCERE
After Kenney didn't just call him a "liar" and a "grave threat" should be fired as a spokesman for Secretary Julian Bradley, Jason Kenney issued after an outburst by gadfly Turner.

THE UPSHOT MAY BE AN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY CONFLICT THE FEDE CAN'T WIN.

could never quite substantiate, but never mind. Environmentalists who said the oil sands were harming the health of people in nearby First Nations communities, meanwhile, coaxed the rhetorically tongue-tied premier to near-tradition—they were, he said, "obviously ill-informed environmentalists that really don't know the facts. My job is to protect this province—protect the province of Alberta."

Ellen MacDonald, his deputy chief of staff, said Soderman's victory hinged on the Tarasoff case's success in removing the movement from the Liberals, whose leader promised to wage a "war on autism." All very well and good, said the Tories—but what about jobs? The message resonated, and Soderman knew it. Nothing overrode him from it, even as key energy outlets, in a letter to the no-



WHEN AN APOLOGY SEEMS A BIT INSINCERE

"For the record...," went I noted that Minister Kenney didn't just call Gerta Turner a "hoonbag." He also called him a "tass" and a "grasse robot." His apology after question period should be broken as encompassing these derogatory terms too. A spokesman for Secretary of State for Multiculturalism and Canadian Identity Jason Kenney, commenting on an apology Kenney issued after an outburst directed at Liberal MP and former Tory ally Turner.

The high price of sending kids abroad

BY PETER BRAWER TAYLOR • Taking a gap year between college and a permanent job to explore the world or simply find yourself has a big advantage among young graduates. And while this practice is the privilege of affluent youth, it hardly means such a secret that Ottawa needs to spend big dollars promoting the idea. But that's exactly what they're doing.

Ottawa's latest television ad campaign, seen



OTTAWA is promoting a gap year to students on prime time TV

on such prime time real estate as CTV's American Idol—the highest rated show in Canada week after week—features a cascade of images that seem more like a travel agency commercial than a public-service announcement. Scenes of quaint European streets, reflecting pools or busy Downtown shops all seem paired by voice-overs saying such things as “this could be your perfect lunch” or “this could be your real home.”

Interrupted viewers who click on the federal government website cited at the end of the ad (www.international.gc.ca/expenses) will discover it is promoting a variety of student and youth work-visa exchange programs organized by Ottawa with approximately 30 other countries. In essence, Canada is trying to encourage students to leave home and go to work abroad.

The Department of Foreign Affairs says that makes sense because Canada alone accounts for nearly a million foreign youth into our country. So it's a vast “leakage,” participation in one of our programs develops a number of skills that will be attractive to employers. “That may all be true, but there might well be other priorities in youth employability more pressing—the dropout rate, for example—than promoting what students have been doing on their own for decades. What's next, government tips on where to go for spring break?”

How beavers will save the world

BY KARE LUNN • The beaver was once a proud species that adorned coats of arms (and today, our five-cent coin) and brought far more to Canada by the beaverdam. But today—although the beaver is more plentiful than at the height of the fur trade—its star has faded. The beaver's world is now known for flooding roads, toppling trees and making millions of new “X” on trees it could change their. According to Clymna Hood, an assistant professor at the University of Alberta, the beaver population could help mitigate the effects of global warming, including drought. “You add beaver, and you get more open water. They create wetlands,” she explains.

In one of the most extreme studies of its kind, Hood looked at Parks Canada data on the beaver population at Elk Island National Park (just outside Edmonton). Because the species was reintroduced there in 1941 after being wiped out by overhunting, she could compare the area's wetlands before and after the beaver's return. Crucially, Hood was able to observe the record-breaking drought that scorched the Prairie in 2002. That summer, she says, beavers



BEAVERS may help mitigate the effects of global warming

spent more time digging deep channels to ensure there is always fresh water. Farmers worried their cattle at the time beaver ponds. “While other wetlands were drying up,” Hood says, “the ones with beaver had [up to nine times] more water in them.”

Wetlands function like a sponge, trapping rainwater and reabsorbing it back into the land. They provide habitat, moderate local climate and filter water. University of British Columbia professor Patrick Mooney designs artificial wetlands, which he says can cost over \$36,000 per hectare. Meanwhile, “the beaver does the job. And they do it really good job.” With global warming, as droughts become more severe, wetland preservation will be crucial. But, says Hood, “our current way of managing beavers is to look at them as pests,” and that's often done through lethal means. She hopes her work could help the beaver regain its noble status once again. ■

Making a case for faith-based schools



STUDY shows that religious-based education promotes tolerance

BY CATHERINE ORRILL • Premier Dalton McGuinty's recent moves to abolish the Lord's Prayer from the Ontario legislature has ignited yet another controversy over the place of Christianity—or religion generally—in public institutions. The debate first blossomed during the provincial election over the government's proposed public funding of religious schools sparked outrage that the schools would be segregated and breed discrimination. McGuinty opposes public funding for them, but a study has shown that faith-based education can actually be good for tolerance.

The report, published in the *Canadian Journal of Education*, challenges arguments against religious schools by liberal thinkers such as British philosopher Harry Brighouse. Brighouse contends that religious schools are little success in lots, and are segregating, repressive and often inferior education. By contrast, the study's authors, Stephen Morris of the University of Alberta and Paul van Kesteren of the Edmonton Public School Board, write: “Religious schooling can offer children an education that promotes tolerance and critical reflection and that encourages and supports their future autonomy.”

The study suggests parents and children in religious schools become they want to encourage a “spiritual dimension” to education. While students will mostly learn about one particular faith, this may be better than learning little about any religion. Understanding one faith “may help the child to understand more fully the implications of choosing any religious way of life,” the report says.

The researchers conclude that things can go wrong. “Much of us are aware of religious groups that bring up children in ways that we abhor” but eliminating faith entirely may not be the answer, they write. “The absence of religion in schools can be interpreted as a message about the insignificance of religion for daily life.” That doesn't seem so tolerant. ■

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HOW OBAMA WOULD GOVERN

Criticizes an untested liberal with little substance, the Democratic hopeful's positions on issues such as health care, education and the NAFTA deal that are actually far from predictable BY LUEZA CH. SAVAGE

Hillary Rodham Clinton on Tuesday succeeded in intercepting what she a while back called Barack Obama's "incredible march toward the Democratic presidential nomination." She did so in part by persuading those non-voter voters in Ohio that Obama is "style without substance" as, here, a policy virgin wrapped in a pretty speech. But as was demonstrated by the Obama campaign's disagreements with the Clinton government over who said what about NAFTA in the lead-up to his disappointing performance in Ohio and Texas, the truth is not so simple.

There is plenty of prose behind Obama's poetry—would it has been often contradicted by ladies fighting at his campaign events. Now, as the anti and rock Democratic campaign grounds on as no holds-barred contest for each and every delegate, there is increasingly more scrutiny of what exactly a President Obama would do. And he will have to confront the apparent contradiction at the heart of his candidacy. On the one hand, a first-term senator is cast painting as a post-partisan savior of political foes and trans-ender of ideologies. On the other hand, when the respected *National Journal* magazine put together its annual ranking of the most liberal members of the U.S. Senate, Obama ranked No. 1. If true, that would make him more liberal than Senator Edward Kennedy, more liberal than Senator Russ Feingold, who wants to formally "renounce" President George W. Bush—as close as the Senate can come to initiating impeachment proceedings, and more liberal than Senator Bernie Sanders, the self-described "socialist" from Vermont. Hillary Clinton, who has proudly embraced the role of second partisan leader, came in only at No. 36.

Obama has encouraged this lefty image when it suited his needs. After millicentrated populist John Edwards dropped out of the Democratic race, both Clinton and Obama rushed to assume his mantle and woo his delegates. Most noticeably, Obama hardened his position on NAFTA, vowing to negotiate the labor and environment portions, and in a recent debate went as far as saying he'd opt out of the agreement if Costa Rica and Mexico didn't go along. (The prospect of a U.S. politician lecturing Canadians on labor and environmental rights was amplified by Canadian opposition to a "free-trade agreement" on this, at least, Clinton agreed with him. She had immense support from

JASON EDEGHE/REUTERS

blue-collar voters who blamed trade agreements for their woes.)

Obama's promises and platitudes were convincing enough to the popular crowd that Schwab's top economic adviser, Leo Hindery, on Monday endorsed the Clinton scenario. "His belief in change is all about the American dream being once again about Americans' dreams," explained Hindery, 68, as Obama's pledges to enforce labor laws at home and in trade agreements. And, he added, "Barack Obama believes in fair and more progressive individual income taxation." That last sound you just heard? The very words chills galloping down the backs of the free-tradeists and disaffected Republicans that Obama was supposed to be drawing to his campaign, not the gleeful caudles of Republican agitators as they prepare their "we end special-interest" attack rife.

But before the Obama-to-populist cause (we could grow strong enough to deliver Obama, CTV News broke a personality scandal on story writer Obama's campaign official had told a Canadian diplomat to take the screen's rhetoric on trade with a very large grain of salt. The campaign and the embassy duly distanced the remark. But within days, the Associated Press got hold of a memo written by an unnamed official at the Canadian consulate in Chicago summarizing a conversation with Obama's top economic adviser, University of Chicago economist Martin Goodbee. The memo stated that Goodbee said "that much of the rhetoric that may be proffered to protectors is more reflection of political maneuvering than policy."

Goodbee seemed the diplomat of the moment, with words in his mouth. But he did not give another sentence in the memo. "On NAFTA, Goodbee suggested that Obama is less about fundamentally changing the agreement and more in favor of strengthening clarifying language on labor mobility and environment and trying to establish there as more 'core' principles of the agreement."

So, despite the tough talk on reentering the agreement, what Obama really wanted was some stronger language on the environment and labor. Possibly along the lines of language the Congress had approved in a recent trade deal with Peru—language that the hardest critics of NAFTA said was not nearly strong enough. But the secret was out. Barack Obama is not an anti-trade protectionist bell-bent on ripping up NAFTA. He is, on the other hand, quite possibly an old-school panderer, and certainly not the straight-talking John McCain, who told voters in Michigan that, as for those words of "manic fantasizing girls, some of them 'are not coming back. They are not. And I am sorry that you don't.'" (McCain promptly lost the Mich-



Obama is not an anti-trade protectionist bell-bent on ripping up NAFTA, but may be an old-school panderer

OBAMA'S approach has been called 'Red government, simple to use and makes the better

gan Republican primary to Ron Romney.)

Lost in the flavor over Goodbee's NAFTA comments was the significance of Obama's choice of Goodbee to advise him in the first place. The unconventional young professor has written about everything from automobile tax revenues to the emerging idea that TV is bad for kids. He has described Obama's approach as "red government." "Simple to use, easy for people, makes their life better" (After the NAFTA memo surfaced, Goodbee told Marklein he was not and could not speak to the "Foreign media.")

His general approach to economics is to challenge assumptions rather than apply traditional economic theory by assuming how individuals actually behave when faced with economic choices. This approach finds its way into Obama's policies. For example, the Goodbee memo suggests Obama just for word by Obama is based on the assumption that people do not take advantage of games using a game when they are offered by employers, but that they are less likely to opt out if they are automatically enrolled. So the Obama plan would make retirement savings deductions automatic from paychecks, unless a person opted out.

Goodbee has a reputation for being not ideological. This should give outsiders comfort. For example, in a 2006 paper entitled "What Happens When You Tax the Rich?" Goodbee reaffirmed the prediction of conservative critics that high-rolling corporate executives will simply respond to higher taxes by reducing their taxable income (converting stock options before the tax is

introduced), thus depriving the government of a lot of the increased revenue it might have been collecting. However, in a memo, he also found that about the same dip in revenues would be reversed by the second year. Thus Obama can say that his plan to slow Bush tax cuts to expire for the highest income earners will not cost the Treasury in the long run.

On the other hand, when many Democrats were downgrading the mortgage deduction and loan-loss-protection that give huge losses to people who could not afford them, Goodbee penned a column in the New York Times defending the value of mortgage tax breaks as a means of giving a chance for home ownership to people who would otherwise be left out. "When contemplating ways to prevent excessive mortgages for the 15 percent of subprime borrowers whose loans

go sour, regulators must be careful that they do not weaken the ability of the other 85 percent to obtain mortgages," he wrote.

In another example that defies partisan psychology, Goodbee in 2006 proposed an automatic tax return for people without complicated deductions. It would be filled out by the IRS based on information already sent in by employers and banks. A taxpayer could simply look it over and sign it, avoiding the hassle and expense of tax preparation. Goodbee estimates 40 percent of tax payers could use it.

So, with an adviser like Goodbee crafting Obama's economic policies, it's clear why the "most liberal senator" label is misleading. And closer look at the emerging system suggests that moderate is not very mean indeed. The *National Journal* calculated in its first year by tallying the proportion of votes that it considers "liberal" compared to the political ideal number of votes. In 2007, Obama participated in 61 of the 99 key votes and reached the only tie break the "liberal" position.

IT'S NOT enough to say to your child, do good in school, do good in sports, and when you get home you have the TV on

61 times). As it turns out, he only differed from Clinton, who voted a total of 83 times, on two of those 61 votes. And one of those votes was to narrowly vote against a measure to encourage violence-free versions. The other vote to slow some measures to stay in the country while they remained there was Clinton voted against Obama voted for.

To guess how Obama would govern, it's useful to look at his policy book, in spite of the fact that such documents are often vague and post-hocology. It's pretty common, even in the Democratic party, the bipartisan No Child Left Behind. And that contained standardized tests in reading and math for school children across the country was a treaty that should be scrapped. But Obama doesn't want to get rid of standardized testing. He

proposes to think more tests to the beginning of the year so there is time to diagnose problems, rather than have them later in the year, which leads schools to do nothing but "teach the test." He also wants to make teacher salaries, while increasing teaching requirements. And the father of two school-aged girls likes to go all Bill Cosby with lectures about personal responsibility and the African-American benefits taking more responsibility for their kids.

"It doesn't matter how much money we put in if parents don't parent," he said at a recent campaign appearance in Beaumont, Texas. "It's not good enough for you to say to your child, do good in school, but what if they get home you have the TV on, the radio on, there's not a book in the house and you've got the video game playing." He finger-wagged parents to turn off the games and give their kids a good bedtime. "Am I right?" he asked a cheering crowd. "Can I parent 'em?" he said.

Health care policies offer another interesting example. Both Obama and Clinton want to ensure that all Americans are covered by private health insurance plans, through a combination of tax credits and direct government subsidies. The main difference is that Clinton wants to force all currently uninsured Americans to participate. Her argument is that young, healthy adults are the least likely to buy insurance, but they need to be pushed into the system to subsidize the elderly and the infirm. Obama would not force adults to buy insurance, arguing that the subsidies and tax credits for those who cannot currently afford insurance would result in almost total coverage. The plan would, however, require all parents to buy coverage for children under 18, and allow those young people to stay on their parents' plans until the age of 25 (currently young people leave out of their parents' plans when they reach adulthood, and many do not get their own health coverage).

Obama also promises high health care cost reductions by forcing insurance companies to cover disease prevention, screening and diagnosing—costlier expensive emergency room visits. And he wants an independent agency to study the relative pharmaceutical effectiveness of competing drugs, an idea some Republicans have championed. "What Senator Obama's plan proposes to do, let's take all the ideas out there—Democrats, Republicans, everything that people think will work—let's really try it," says health economist and Harvard dean of social sciences David Cutler, who serves as Obama's chief health policy advisor.

Obama's proposal to not mandate health care coverage for all Americans was, Cutler



TOP: PHOTOFEST; BOTTOM: JEFFREY M. HARRIS/GETTY IMAGES; BOTTOM: JEFFREY M. HARRIS/GETTY IMAGES

says, a pragmatic one. His critics made the case that lawsuits don't result in 100 per cent coverage—for example, not everyone on the road has car insurance—and they can be tricky to enforce. Should someone be fined for not buying health insurance? Confronted with the discussion with Obama this way? "He said, 'What I really want to do is make things happen.' We told him we thought he could get 95 to 99 per cent coverage without a mandate. Mandates only work if you know the thing is enforceable and enforceable."

Obama was persuaded by their arguments, but kept the door open, in a nod to the road if their prediction didn't turn out to be right. Outside of his particular ideological line to Obama's approach, which, while less radical than Clinton's, is still a far cry from the status quo. "His vision is who wants to get things done. That's what came across to me. I want to get good things done. We've got a mess [in health care] and we're not getting ourselves out of this mess."

On the economic front, Obama proposes to be less interventionist in the markets than Clinton, who wants a moratorium on home foreclosures and freezing adjustable mortgage interest rates for five years—which some critics said would send interest rates on new mortgages soaring, and further collapse the housing market. (Through the murky and so on the stump, the moratorium was to be voluntary and the freeze would apply only to subprime mortgages.) Obama had a more modest proposal: for government to subsidize people in danger of losing their homes, and the greater the extent of loan terms by lenders.

The case against Obama has gone down hill clearly to the left of Clinton on foreign policy. Or perhaps she has put herself to the right. He has used his veto-wielding power in Iraq as a red line of demarcation, arguing that it shows his superior judgment in a crisis. He has said that the Iraq war observed from the heart of al-Qaeda and the unfinished war in Afghanistan. Obama, who opposed the war but wasn't a senator when the Iraq war was occurring, has promised to move troops out of Iraq and send at least two additional combat brigades into Afghanistan. Clinton has blasted him in TV ads for spouting off on Afghanistan—while holding precisely zero hearings about solving the problems of warring as chairman of a subcommittee of the Senate foreign relations committee that is responsible for the oversight of relations with NATO. Obama has explained that he has been too busy campaigning to hold hearings.

Meanwhile, he attacks Clinton for her role to support labelling the Iranian Revolution as a terrorist organization, saying



'His economic positions are less populist and more market-oriented than we associate with liberals'

OBAMA's approach to health care, while less radical than Clinton's, is far from the status quo

it was part of a Bush administration plan to build up support for some sort of strike against John McCain. But Obama, earlier, supported legislation that would have done the same thing, and when it came time to vote on the newer health measure, he was absent.

Will Marshall, a former of the Democratic Leadership Council, the brain trust behind Bill Clinton's "third way" policy ideas in the 1990s, says he does not consider Obama a particularly "liberal" thinker. "His economic positions are less populist and more market-oriented than we associate with liberals, but that's been obscured by the flap-over NAFTA where everyone is screaming like William Jennings Bryan," says Marshall, who served as the policy director of the DLC and is now president of the Progressive Policy Institute, a Washington think tank where Goodline has been a fellow. Marshall says he would classify Obama as less populist than Hillary Rodham Clinton—at least before the crude blow-up, which he attributes to the tightness of the race and Obama's attempt to go after her strength with blue-collar workers. "They are both centrist-progressive candidates building on the foundation laid by Bill Clinton's successes in the 1990s—with the exception on trade."

And here he has on the story of the Obama campaign's attempts to paint Hillary Clinton as hopelessly old-school—and her efforts to discredit Obama's "new policies" ideas as just another old-fashioned thinking. "In trying to move beyond the old left-right debate," observes Marshall, "the candidate of Bill Clinton" is



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ON GUARD AT NARITA AIRPORT: "This isn't about terrorism—it's just a form of social control."

THOSE SCARY GAIJIN

Japan is fingerprinting foreigners, and some residents are up in arms

BY STEVE BESIGHER • There had to be a time when foreigners could enter Japan with little fan. The Grove of Jesus Christ is a point of that. Located in the northern prefecture of Aomori, this most ambitious of scenic attractions claims to be the resting place of not only Jesus Christ but also his brother, the family having apparently relocated in Japan to become rice farmers after Jesus escaped death on the cross.

If so, Jesus saved himself from bother by arriving early. These days, foreigners traveling to Japan face a new hurdle: Following the lead of the United States, the Japanese government has begun requiring virtually all foreign arrivals to be fingerprinted. But the Japanese law goes further than the American in its repetitive scrutiny of both foreign travelers and permanent residents of non-Japanese ethnicity. While Japanese citizens are exempt, even long-term residents of Japan must be fingerprinted—every time they return to the country from abroad. Mindfully, there is no ink involved. At Tokyo's Narita airport, foreign passport holders step up to the counter and press their index fingers onto electronic readers. Occasional officials offer an embarrassed admission: "I had these too," he claims. "Three people deported."

The specter of gaijin danger has often figured in Japanese public debate. In April 2000, Tokyo governor Shintaro Ishihara told

soldiers of the Ground Self-Defense Force that, in the event of a natural disaster, a key task would be preventing foreigners from committing crimes. The explanation offered by Japan's Ministry of Justice for the new fingerprinting measure—a previous fingerprinting law that had been on the books for 40 years—was published in the and "Seems that it is intended to provide 'effective control of contagious diseases and terrorism.' And some members of the foreign-born citizen community are disturbed by the implications.

Delfino Andueza is an associate professor at Hokkaido Information University in Sapporo.

THE EXPLANATION? THE MEASURE WILL CONTROL 'CONTAGIOUS DISEASES AND TERRORISM.'

poro. American born (in 1965, as David Christopher Aldenick), Andueza is now a naturalized Japanese citizen and thus one of the few visible minority members who does not have to submit to the new procedure. Still, he is no less outraged, and calls the Justice Ministry's explanation "stupid." How dare they tag foreigners as agents of contagious disease and terrorism? Every single

postwar set of terrorists in this country has been committed by Japanese. Why not fingerprint them too?"

Even the technology is useless, Andueza says. He has heard that "It takes three to five days to process the prints. Occasional leaks could cause a, bomb something, and leave before the system checked him." As for the racism claims made by that Narita customs officer, Andueza snorts. "They are just up on a few expired passports and visas, but they don't need fingerprints to do that. This isn't about terrorism. It's just a form of social control." According to Andueza, worried foreign residents are moving to form an organization to represent their interests. FRANCA (Foreign Residents and Naturalized Citizens Association) will lobby for a faster shake for non-Japanese residents. "We're aiming for year-end implementation," he says. "People are saying we need representation. It's becoming intolerable."

Being born in Japan is not necessarily a ticket to the Citizens fast lane. Shiroko Jo (Shiroko Y. Jo), 36, was born in Osaka to Chinese parents. But after returning home from a trip to Beijing as Jan. 2, Jo, who has a Chinese passport and is a resident of Japan, was fingerprinted. "This was the first time," Jo says. "I used to just choose [either the Japanese or foreign passport] line, whichever was shorter. Now I can't use the Japanese line anymore. Things have changed—they are being changed. I never had the sense of being a foreigner before. Now I do."

Kjeld Duha is a Dutch writer who has lived in the town of Aizuyama, near Kyoto, since 1982. "It's a huge step backward," he says, over a glass of fried rice in Kyoto's local Japanese and remarkably tidy Chawton. Duha believes that fingerprinting long-term residents like him is overkill. "I'm extremely upset. All of my information is required down at city hall. They can check my prints any time they want to." Duha points out that for the past quarter-century he has been active in charitable and relief work, particularly after the devastating Kobe earthquake of 1995. "Now we are told all foreigners are dangerous, possibly criminals."

But Duha has not felt the same hostility as (continued on page 18)

Mending MINDS

The Alberta Mental Health Board's third annual Research Showcase brought mental health experts from around the world to Banff to shed new light on an illness that affects one-in-three Canadians at some point in their lives. Here's what they had to say—and why it matters to you.



IN THIS ISSUE:

- THE TRAUMATIC IMPACT OF TERRORISM ON ADULTHOOD
- DEPRESSION AND THE ELDERLY
- MENTAL ILLNESS IN THE WORKPLACE
- THE CASE FOR EARLY INTERVENTION



CHINA: GETTING OUT OF FAMILY PLANNING?
New estimates of an aging population and a gender imbalance. China is reportedly considering changes to the controversial one-child policy that has shaped the birth rate in the country for more than three decades. The gradual relaxing of the rule, says David Berg, an official with the family planning commission, has become "a big issue making decision-makers." The Chinese government, however, said there is no plan to change the policy.





"Sadly, mental illness continues to be cloaked in stigma..."

It's my pleasure to welcome you to this third annual issue of *Wandering Minds* – a summary of information presented at the annual Alberta Mental Health Board Mental Health Research Showcase.

If mental health is not your field of study or work, you might wonder why you should read this. The answer is simple: mental illness affects us all.

Research shows that one in three people in our country will experience a mental illness at some point in their life. So, it's likely that someone you care about will be touched by mental illness—your spouse, your parent, your child, your friend, or your co-worker.

Gives that reality, the general public needs to be knowledgeable about mental illness and mental health. That's why our

organization believes so strongly in this Special Report and sharing what was heard at Showcase with Canadians.

Sadly, mental illness continues to be cloaked in stigma created by myths. Believing that nothing can be done for someone with a mental illness is one of these myths. The truth is that treatments have been developed and progress continues to be made. Understanding mental illness and mental health is an important step to recovery and helping others. And it all starts with research.

Showcase brings together leading researchers from our country and around the world. During the three-day conference, researchers have an opportunity to share their experience and expertise with their fellow academics, policymakers, service providers, and those who access mental health services and their families. Bringing together these groups helps us to promote and apply mental health research for the benefit of those with mental illness, which is a key mandate of our organization and one of the priorities in Alberta's Provincial Mental Health Plan.

Collaboration is one of the reasons our conference is so successful. Word about the value of Showcase continues to spread around the world, and that buzz means that, each year, delegate spots fill up faster than the year before.

The annual Special Report you are about to read helps advance mental health through knowledge exchange and by combating the stigma around mental illness.

I hope this report encourages you to learn more about the stigma surrounding mental illness, and how to break it, so we can take the bold next steps needed to make a positive and meaningful difference in the lives of those struggling with mental illness.

Roy Block, PhD
President & CEO of the Alberta Mental Health Board



The Alberta Mental Health Board (AMHB) is a provincial health authority that oversees and advances Alberta's mental health system, serves as an advisory capacity to government and works with health regions and public and private organizations to address system-wide mental health priority issues that span national, provincial, regional and organizational boundaries.

WANDERING MINDS

2007 AMHB Research Showcase

A research conference is not a rock concert. When a presenter completes an address, the usual response is a polite round of applause. Yet when the University of California's Vincent Felitti finished his hour-long talk at the third annual Alberta Mental Health Board (AMHB) Mental Health Research Showcase conference, the audience spontaneously sprang to their feet and gave him a rousing standing ovation.

How to explain this unusual reception? The fact is that, in a mere 60 minutes, Dr. Felitti shed new light on one of the most profound, and potentially disturbing, aspects of the human condition—that we are all shaped, for good or for ill, by our early childhood experiences.

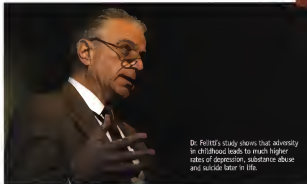
Dr. Felitti is Co-Principal Investigator of the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study, an ongoing collaborative research project between the California-based Kaiser Permanente Medical

Care Program and the Centers for Disease Control. The ACE study is a long-term evaluation of over 17,000 middle-aged, middle-class Kaiser Health Plan patients. The study matches their current health status against a total of 16 categories of childhood abuse, neglect and family dysfunction that occurred, on average, a half-century earlier.

The ACE study found a devastating link between childhood suffering and subsequent life experiences, including depression, alcoholism and suicide. "Adverse childhood experiences are common, but typically unrecognized," Dr. Felitti told the 400 delegates at the Showcase conference, which annually shines a light on the very best mental health and addictions research worldwide. "The link to problems later in life is strong and logical."

Dr. Felitti described the unusual impetus for the ACE study: He and his colleagues had developed a weight-loss program that used the technique of supplemented feeding to help severely obese individuals shed up to 300 pounds of weight without surgery. But the program had a high dropout rate—limited almost exclusively to patients who had successfully lost weight. "The counterintuitive aspects of that really drove me nuts," Dr. Felitti told delegates.

In-depth interviews with some of the dropouts began to provide an explanation. Dr. Felitti cited the case of a woman who entered the program in 1984 weighing 488 pounds. Within 51 weeks,



Dr. Felitti's study shows that adversity in childhood leads to much higher rates of depression, substance abuse and suicide later in life.

she lost 276 pounds. She stayed stable for several weeks but then, in a mere two-week period, regained 37 pounds. Dr. Felitti asked what was going on; the woman said she was "sleep-walking"—she would go to bed and later find dirty pots and pans and other evidence of binge eating. After pressing her on why she might be doing this, the woman told him about a work colleague—a much older, married man—who made sexual advances after her weight loss. Ultimately, she told him about a lengthy history of childhood incest at the hands of her grandfather.

"Suddenly," said Dr. Felitti, "even her job made sense. She was a nurse's aide on the night shift in a convalescent hospital. She was paid to be awake and on her feet all night when the old people were in bed."

The woman soon regained all her lost weight. She disappeared, only to reappear 32 years later, when she underwent stomach surgery. After shedding 68 pounds, she became suicidal and landed in a psychiatric hospital five times over the next year.

After interviewing nearly 300 other weight program dropouts who had similar stories of childhood abuse and neglect, Dr. Felitti and his colleagues concluded that severe abuse often masked a much deeper problem. They decided to research the prevalence of adverse childhood experiences in a very mainstream population and its impact on subsequent health status. The result was the ACE study—and some truly disturbing findings.

The 18 categories of childhood adversity studied include three sub-groups. Under abuse, there are emotional (recurrent humiliation), physical (beating, not spanking) and sexual. Under household dysfunction, the factors are: mother treated violently; household member was alcoholic or drug user; household member was injured; household member was chronically depressed, suicidal, mentally ill, or in a psychiatric hospital; or the individual was not raised by both biological parents (physical being the most common reason). Finally, there are the two categories of neglect—physical and emotional.



This year's AMNH Showcase added a keynote address by Margaret Trudeau, who became the youngest Prime Minister's wife in Canadian history when she married Pierre Trudeau at the age of 22. Ms. Trudeau, who raised five children, has suffered from the debilitating effects of bipolar condition all of her adult life. Now, after seeking medical treatment that has given her life balance and happiness, she advocates strongly on the need to promote better mental health and overcome public stigma. She also works with the Royal Ottawa Hospital to raise funds for their new hospital and increase public awareness about mental health issues.

Ms. Trudeau gave delegates a moving account of her personal struggles with mental illness and her journey towards recovery. She credited a comprehensive program of medication, therapy, nutrition and physical exercise with restoring her mental health and helping her find a positive balance of mind, body and spirit. She also urged delegates to continue to reach out and help those who experience mental health problems, but who may be reluctant to seek treatment because of the stigma so often associated with mental illness.

The ACE score is based on the number of categories of adverse experience during the first 18 years of life, with each category scoring as one point. There is no extra scoring for multiple offenders or offenses. Thus, if you grew up with two alcoholic parents, that still scores as one point. The same is true if you were molested multiple times by five different people. If anything, observed Dr. Felitti, the survey tends to underestimate the actual level of abuse and neglect.

Dr. Felitti stressed that the people studied are well educated and broadly representative of middle-class America. "In no way can you dismiss this population as strange or abnormal," he told delegates. "The risk is that this is really you and me."

Yet the amount of adversity revealed by the survey is staggering. For example, 28 per cent of participants had been beaten as children, 22 per cent were sexually abused and 27 per cent lived in a household where at least one member was an alcoholic or a drug user.

Only one-third had an ACE score of zero. If any one category was present, there was an 87 per cent likelihood of at least one more category being present, due in via individuals had an ACE score of 4 or more; one in 30 had an ACE score of 5 or higher.

Then there are the links to adult tragedy and trauma. Individuals with an ACE score of 4 were four times more likely to suffer chronic depression than those with a zero score, while their likelihood of attempting suicide increased by a factor of 1,460 per cent. At an ACE score of 4, you were also 550 per cent more likely to become an alcoholic; at a score of 6 or more, you were 4,600 per cent more likely to become an intravenous drug user.

Childhood adversity even appears to impact future physical health. As ACE scores go up, so does the likelihood of liver disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and coronary heart disease.

As Dr. Felitti told delegates, the ACE study helps answer an age-old question: how is it that the golden promise of the newborn can so often turn into the leaden reality of that individual's adult life? For medical practitioners, he added, the study underscores the importance of fully exploring and understanding their patients' life history and for health care planners, it reinforces the need for early intervention.

"The magnitude of the problem is so huge and so complex that it isn't realistic to think we can deal with it in a meaningful way by treatment after the fact," said Dr. Felitti. "The only way it can be done is through primary prevention."

Dr. Felitti's presentation was an outstanding example of what the AMNH Showcase is all about. Each year, the conference brings top-flight mental health and addictions researchers and clinicians from across Canada and around the world to Banff. For three days, the experts present their latest research findings and interact closely with Showcase delegates, including front-line health workers, policymakers and mental health consumers and their families.

Hosting the Showcase conference flows naturally from the AMNH's ever-evolving mandate. The board is the provincial health authority that oversees and advocates Alberta's mental health system. The AMNH is involved in numerous initiatives, including advocacy, policy advice and working with regional health authorities and stakeholders to improve and facilitate mental health services and systems.

In 2004, the AMNH helped develop a province-wide mental health plan, which sets out a vision for making Alberta a world-class leader in mental health research. The board is now implementing that plan by focusing on four key themes, the effectiveness of mental health services, child and adolescent mental health, workplace mental health issues, and mental illness and addictions.

The AMNH is also in charge of monitoring a three-year, \$75 million Innovation Fund from the Alberta Health and Wellness ministry to advance new ideas for improving the mental health system. Another \$7 million has been raised to date to support the Alberta Confidential Mental Health Research program. Through this initiative, the AMNH and its partners plan to attract leading mental health experts to research key problems at Alberta universities. The objective is to provide strong, credible research that will result in effective mental health treatment and prevention programs.



All of these initiatives, in fact, are about reaching out and making a real difference in the lives of those who struggle with mental illness and addictions. As AMNH Chair Dr. Jean Fergusson told Showcase delegates in Banff: "Not finding steps to ensure good mental health comes with costs. It costs us as individuals and families. It costs us as a society and it costs us economically."

The vision being pursued by the AMNH stands far beyond Alberta's boundaries. The AMNH collaborates regularly with inter-provincial, national and international partners.

The B.C. Mental Health & Addictions Services and Saskatchewan Health were co-sponsors of the 2007 Showcase, and attendees from those two provinces figured prominently in conference presentations.

The third co-sponsor of the conference, the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission (AADAC), works closely with the AMNH as a number of fronts. As AADAC Chair Harvey Gensara reminded delegates, "Mental health issues and addictions often go hand-in-hand—and both have a serious impact on our families, communities and economies."

Going forward, the AMNH will also collaborate with the recently established Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC), headquartered in Calgary. In a brief address to delegates, John Service, Executive Director of the MHCC, described the Commission's three key initiatives. They are: a 10-year national anti-stigma campaign; a knowledge exchange centre to help disseminate mental health research; and a national strategy to address mental illness, "together," said Dr. Service, "I think we can make quite a difference over the next 10 years."

Working with these partners, and others, the AMNH will continue to play a significant role in reforming Canada's mental health system—with the information gleaned from the Research Showcase helping to pave the way. As they had at the two earlier conferences, delegates assisted the lay of the snow-covered Rockies is fewer of member presentations and networking. For three days, November 25 to November 29, 2007, they listened intently to expert speakers and prepared them with peeling questions. They poured over more than 300 academic abstracts on everything from eating disorders to meeting the housing needs of people with mental illness. They reached out to each other for advice and expertise and came away more determined than ever to harness the best in research to advance mental health.

What follows are some highlights of what this year's Showcase conference participants learned.

PRIMED TO HEAL: DELIVERING EFFECTIVE MENTAL HEALTH CARE

"If you put five experts in a room, they'll all want to be perfect. There isn't enough money in our health care system for perfection, but there is enough money for good. We can't let the perfect be the enemy of the good."

—GAVIN ANDREWS, SCIENTIA PROGRAM, SCHOOL OF PSYCHIATRY, UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA, AMH SHOWCASE



One of the biggest challenges facing the mental health system is the gap between the demand for services and the resources available to respond to those needs. Many suffer, but too few are being helped.

One in three individuals will experience a mental health problem at some point in their lives. In Canada, that translates into more than 20 million people. It's been estimated that mental illness costs the Canadian economy \$13 billion each year in disability and lost productivity. We currently spend another \$4 billion to \$6 billion annually to treat mental disorders. More health dollars are consumed by people with a mental illness than by cancer and heart disease patients combined.

At the same time, research shows that two-thirds of adults who experience mental illness never seek help; for adolescents, the figure is 75 per cent. Of those who do seek treatment, the majority will first report symptoms to family physicians who are often ill-equipped to recognize or deal with mental illness.

Delegates to the Showcase conference heard from Canadian and international experts as recent initiatives to improve the delivery of mental health services to primary healthcare. Common themes included the need to improve, make better use of existing and emerging resources, and enhance the level of contact and collaboration between health care practitioners.

Dr. Gavin Andrews is both a practicing psychiatrist and a leading researcher and mental health reform advocate in his native

Australia. Working with data collected through the exhaustive Australian Survey of Mental Health and Well-Being, Dr. Andrews and a team of experts resolved to identify the number of people in need and calculate the resources required to meet their individual needs. They concluded a 33 per cent increase in mental health spending would reach 60 per cent more people than is currently the case and generate a 90 per cent increase in health gains.

In what was dubbed the Tolkein II project, Dr. Andrews and the other experts looked at a total of 15 mental disorders, the amount of money currently being invested in treating these conditions and the health benefits gained. They then asked, if money were no object, what would an optimum level of treatment entail? In the end, they determined that providing ideal care would cost little more than current care, but it would mean re-allocating resources and committing to do things differently.

"No country in the world can afford all of the health care its citizens want or need," Dr. Andrews told delegates. "So we had better understand about setting priorities. As a clinician, it's my moral duty to fight for every dollar I can get for my patients. But as a health care planner, I understand there isn't enough for everyone and that, for every dollar I misspend, I take that away from another human being who wants treatment."

Dr. Andrews said serious disorders like schizophrenia would require increased funding to achieve an ideal level of care. But more common conditions, such as social phobia, could actually be treated at a reduced cost.

One of the keys to a better technology, Dr. Andrews cited two recent studies of Web-based programs that are now being used in Australia to treat individuals with social phobia. "And here's the shock," he said. "The people we got over the Internet are of the same severity as those who come to our anxiety disorder clinic, which is considered world-class. They made the same level of improvement as the ones treated at the clinic—and at a quarter of the cost."

For similar reasons, Dr. Andrews is a strong advocate of using electronic medical records to accurately and efficiently track the progress of patients through the health care system. "We need to use technology to help us up to do what we do best," he said. "There are new advances coming. We should open our minds and use them."

In the wake of the Tolkein II project, governments across Australia significantly increased their mental health care budgets. If spent wisely, Dr. Andrews is confident the new resources will make a real difference in the lives of people coping with mental illness.

Delegates also heard about initiatives in Alberta to help family physicians deal with mental health issues by linking them with psychiatrists and other experts.

Michael Tseu, Medical Director, Primary Care & Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry, for the Calgary

Health Region, described the role played by the Shared Mental Health Care program. Established in 1994, the program sees consultants (psychiatrists or clinicians) go to the primary care offices to either discuss cases or meet jointly with the family physician and patients. Regular times are then set aside for "shared clinic" sessions involving the consultants (between one and four hours a month).

Dr. Tseu and the program is intended to help family physicians detect and treat mental illness—and according to the most recent evaluation, it appears to be working. Based on results from 1,375 patients and 75 family physicians, 72 per cent of the doctors and three skills in managing mental health problems had improved. The patients likewise reported that their mental health problems caused fewer negative effects on their lives and they felt more satisfied with the services being provided by their physician.

Delegates also learned about a Primary Care Network (PCN) recently created to improve mental health services for residents of the City of St. Albert and Sturgeon County, just north of Edmonton. The network includes 40 physicians. Raising mental health capabilities work with the physicians to help link patients to the proper medical and community services—including psychiatrists, clinicians and social service workers.

"Our role is to help navigate the system," said Holly Brown, a PCN mental health coordinator. "Key to this is figuring out a patient's individual needs, identifying diagnoses and looking at where they've been and what they've already tried."

Ms. Brown added that, prior to creating the PCN, "patients were taking through the cracks and doctors were feeling very frustrated." After the first year in operation, all 40 physicians reported that the network had improved the quality of patient care while also increasing their own awareness of available resources.

Success, though, created some new challenges. The network resulted in more patients being identified with mental health needs—an increased demand the system is not yet able to accommodate in a timely manner. "We're at capacity right now and three-month wait lists for newly diagnosed patients is typical," said Ms. Brown. "So the question we now face is: how do we bridge that treatment to you are not left floundering for three months?"

When it comes to delivering mental health services one province—Saskatchewan—is a close partner. Tonya Douglas, Saskatchewan's premier and minister of health for almost two decades (1994–1998), considered mental health a top priority. In 1944, Douglas appointed psychiatrist and academic Rosalind Griffith McKeencher as the province's first Commissioner of Mental Health. In short order, Dr. McKeencher opened a permanent outpatient clinic in Regina, the first of its kind in North America, and launched the first fully funded province-wide research program in psychiatry. In 1950, Saskatchewan became the first Canadian province to provide universal free health care for people with mental disorders.

Saskatchewan was also a leader in providing community-based treatments for the mentally ill. Between 1963 and 1968, nearly three quarters of the 1,500 patients at the Regina Psychiatric Hospital were transferred into the community—the largest and fastest rate of deinstitutionalization attempted to that point.

These landmarks were occurred at the Showcase conference by Raymond Tenper, Head of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Saskatchewan. Dr. Tenper suggested a similar pioneering spirit might be in order as Saskatchewan grapples with current challenges to provide psychiatric care to large Aboriginal and elderly populations and to rural and remote parts of the province.

"Mental health problems are huge in our society," said Dr. Tenper. "And one thing that's very important in mental health promotion and education. We need to make the public a partner in all that we do so they can work within their own communities and families to help provide the care that's needed."

LIFE LESSONS: MENTAL HEALTH AND AN AGING POPULATION

"When an elderly person has the feeling that life is not worth living, you should always check for depression. Having lost interest in life is not a normal consequence of aging."

—THOMAS BRING, PROFESSOR, INSTITUTE OF NEUROSCIENCE AND PSYCHOLOGY, SCIENTIFICA ACADEMY AT GÖTTINGEN UNIVERSITY, SWITZERLAND, AMH SHOWCASE



The world, quite literally, is getting older. Today, there are almost 500 million people above the age of 65. By 2050, that number will have increased three-fold. During the same period, the number of people aged 80 or older is expected to climb from 87 million to almost 400 million.

In Canada, the same trend holds true. In 1991, only five per cent of Canadians were 85 years or older. By 2031, it's expected nearly one-quarter of the population will be in this age group.

All of this has significant implications for the health care system. Seniors seek out medical help more frequently than younger people and put more demand on acute care beds and other resources.

But as conference delegates heard, one of the hardest truths is that aging is linked to high rates of two common mental disorders—depression and dementia.

Sweden's Dr. Ingemar Skarp reported on a series of studies that tracked people as they aged over the past four decades. One study looked at a group of 70-year-olds starting in 1951 and followed them through to the age of 90. Another began in 1968, involved women between the ages of 38 and 80, the last follow-up of this group occurred in 2006, when they were between 75 and 115. Yet another research project—among the largest of its kind in the world—has so far studied 990 people above the age of 95.

These studies show that the prevalence of dementia increases dramatically with age. At age 70, three per cent suffer from this disorder. The proportion then increases to 11 per cent by age 79, to 30 per cent by age 85, and to 50 per cent by age 95.

While the relationship between aging and dementia is well established, the Swedish studies also suggest depression is more common in older people than previously recognized—and that it often goes undiagnosed.

"It's commonly thought the prevalence of depression may decrease after age 65," said Dr. Skarp. "But that's because earlier studies looked at the whole population over 65 and treated it as one entity."

Dr. Skarp explained that the lowest incidence of depression is in the 16 years after retirement—a period that appears to be the happiest and least stressful time in most people's lives. But the studies also show the incidence of new depressive episodes increases between the ages of 70 and 85. Among those 85 and older who are not suffering from dementia, fully 20 per cent experience depression.

Depression in the elderly can have serious physical consequences. The Swedish studies show that people over 85 who are depressed are twice as likely to suffer a stroke—in fact, depression is a stronger risk factor in this age group than hypertension. Depression is also a key factor in suicide by the elderly.

Dr. Skarp noted that no matter how frail, or even bedridden, a person gets, the will to live persists. Among 85-year-olds who do not suffer from dementia, he found only four percent felt life was not worth living. That's why it's important to look for undiagnosed depression when someone says they have lost interest in life.

Such findings can, in fact, be a self-fulfilling prophecy. Research shows that 43 per cent of elderly women who felt life was not worth living actually died within three years, compared to 14 per cent who didn't feel that feeling. Losing the will to live proved to be more fatal than 30 other analyzed disorders, including cardiovascular disease and cancer. "So when you actually have

your fifth in life, you are also at risk of dying," observed Dr. Skarp. "And this is very unnecessary because the majority of these people have depression."

As for dementia, it's a difficult disorder to predict—and, therefore, to prevent. But one of Dr. Skarp's colleagues, Göteborg University Associate Professor Delia Gatzert, told delegates there are some precautions that have at least the potential of delaying or averting the onset of dementia.

The biggest risk factor for dementia, said Dr. Gatzert, is aging itself—a person has to live long enough to enter the age range where dementia becomes commonplace. But there are several other factors that have been linked to a higher risk of dementia, including hypertension, heart disease, stroke, diabetes, obesity and smoking.

What might help protect against dementia? Vitamin supplements a diet that includes fish or fish oil, and moderate alcohol intake (particularly of red wine) are all shown to have beneficial effects. Controlling high blood pressure and watching one's weight are also helpful.



Delia Gatzert, Göteborg University, in Sweden

In the absence of knowing if you are likely to develop dementia, Dr. Gatzert believes the most prudent approach is a lifelong commitment to health and wellness. "The just a lifestyle advocate from the get-go," she said. "We have to teach people to stay active, to watch what they eat and to take care of their health. It may have a smaller effect on prevention, but in terms of improving quality of life, it's going to have a big pay-off."

An aging population also means health care planners must be taking steps today to prepare for increased demands on mental health services tomorrow.

Pat Stamp, Director, Information Management for the AMHS, told delegates that, if current trends persist, physicians in Alberta would be seeing an additional 23,000 individuals with dementia by 2038 as compared to 2006. Based on the current average of 12 physician visits per dementia patient, that translates into an additional 280,800 visits. Similarly, the 43,000 percent days in acute care and psychiatric facilities now generated by Albertans with dementia is projected to increase to 104,850 days by 2030.

What's required, said Mr. Stamp, is a range of strategies to improve mental health services for the elderly. These include an increase in the number of psychiatrists and gerontologists, more beds for the elderly in acute and psychiatric hospitals, more support for caregivers and a wider range of home care and outpatient options.

Mr. Stamp concluded his presentation with a question—and a challenge. "The baby boomers are relatively healthy," he said. "They're justifiably connected and have high expectations about their health care. So how can some of these characteristics be used to leverage the change that needs to happen?"

BOTTOM LINE BLUES: MENTAL HEALTH AND THE WORKPLACE

"We've got a lot of work to do in creating healthy workplaces because it requires a huge culture shift. A lot of organizations don't want to do it because of cost. But the new reality is that, if you don't get on top of this, you are going to have trouble recruiting and retaining the employees you need."

—PETER COLLEDGE, VICE PRESIDENT, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH, BC MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTION SERVICES, AMHS SHOWCASE



Canadian employers are starting to appreciate the enormous costs—both emotional and financial—of mental illness on the workplace. Research shows that one in four employees struggle with mental health issues, most commonly depression or anxiety. It's estimated that mental illness results in 35 million workdays lost each year in Canada. Mental disorders also account for up to 40 per cent of short-term disability insurance claims and are a secondary diagnosis in more than 50 per cent of long-term claims.

With 72,805 employees, Canada Post is well aware of this phenomenon. Robert Wolfe, Senior Vice President, Stakeholder Relations and Brand, Canada Post, told Showcase delegates that 37 per cent of the Crown Corporation's disability claims in 2006 were due to depression or anxiety. The third largest cost for the Canada Post drug coverage program related to medications used to treat depression and other mental disorders.

In the autumn of 2007, Canada Post embraced mental health as its "focus of choice"—the first major Canadian company to do so. As part of this effort, Canada Post employees are now attending workshops to raise awareness about the challenges facing those who struggle with mental illness. Employees also have full and immediate access to experienced professionals to help them deal with mental health concerns before these affect their work and family life.

In addition to creating a healthier workplace culture, Canada Post is hoping to boost the public profile of mental health. Among other initiatives, Canada Post is now the title sponsor of Mental Health Awareness Week and, in 2008, plans to issue the first-ever mental health awareness postage stamp.

"Our biggest job," said Mr. Wolfe, "is to get people not to be frightened to come forward with their problems or to help their fellow employees. We want to lead the charge to dispel the persistent stigma that prevents millions of sufferers across Canada from getting the help they need. We hope our involvement will raise awareness and perhaps set an example for other companies out there."

In fact, at a time of chronic labour shortages, good mental health in the workplace is becoming critical to corporate survival. That was part of the message brought to Showcase delegates by British Columbia's Peter Colledge. Young people today, said Colledge, value employers who understand the importance of work/life balance and who foster positive, respectful relationships among co-workers.

Mr. Colledge outlined a five-year plan recently launched by the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) to improve mental health work conditions. It began with a comprehensive employee survey to elicit information on current mental and physical health status. The plan also includes initiatives to promote employee mental health through web-based self-assessment programs as well as courses to help managers and directors recognize signs of mental illness and respond in a compassionate and supportive manner.

Moving forward, the PHSA plan will introduce better screening for depression as well as periodic health monitoring for high-risk occupational groups. It will also look at helping workers return to the job following a disability leave and preventing relapses.

In addition to improving the conditions for PHSA workers, said Mr. Colledge, the plan could provide valuable information for promoting mental health to other public and private sector workplaces. "We need to make sure it's not just talking the talk, but walking the walk," he said. "We are committed to implementing activities that will make a real difference."

About a quarter of Canada's population lives and works in rural areas and small towns. Providing mental health services to the rural workplace presents some unique challenges.

Carl Olney is Professor and Director of Applied Research, Department of Psychology at the University of Saskatchewan. Dr. Olney, who was trained as a sociologist, told Showcase delegates that the popular image of rural Canada as bucolic or idyllic is often misleading when it comes to personal health. Obesity and smoking rates are higher in rural areas and preventative medical procedures are less accessible. There are fewer primary physicians and far fewer specialists, including psychologists.

While rural Canada is often associated with fireing, forestry and fishing, Dr. Olney noted that the largest employer is actually the retail and wholesale trade sector. And when it comes to mental disorders and substance abuse, research shows that sales and service workers have some of the highest prevalence rates.

"People who work under much more structured situations, and with more demands on their time, are more likely to experience stress and psychiatric disorders," said Dr. Olney. "It comes down to the degree of control you have over your work life. The less control you have, the more likely you will suffer from these disorders."

Given the expanse of rural Canada, Dr. Olney said we must think more creatively about how to deliver mental health services. He sees great potential for Web-based mental health promotion and treatment programs as well as telephone-based counseling services. He also welcomes initiatives like the Australian-designed Mental Health First Aid program, which teaches ordinary people how to detect the signs of mental illness in others and to help direct them to proper sources of care (see sidebar, page 11).



Dr. David Olney, Professor and Chair of Support Research, Department of Psychiatry, University of Saskatchewan

centres. Both programs are aimed at improving social and emotional competence and increasing empathy.

Ms. Swann urged delegates to keep pressing politicians to do more. "I want you all to send an email to your representatives, telling them to pay attention to mental health issues. Because it's too easily something we keep in the closet and treat as a taboo."

BACK TO THE BASICS: THE CASE FOR EARLY INTERVENTION

"We're really focusing on universal prevention. We want to promote mental health and appropriate social behaviours in all students."

—LYNN DAWHAGEN, AMHS DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY AND LIAISON
AMHS SHOWCASE



A recurring theme at the Showcase conference was the need to intervene early to promote better mental health starting at a young age. The provincial source of prevention continues to outweigh any point of cure.

This theme was reinforced in a presentation by Arja Huuskari, an Associate Professor with the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the Erasmus Medical Centre in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Dr. Huuskari reported on studies that used classroom games to encourage good behaviour among elementary school students who suffer from Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). In addition to reducing the level of disruptive and anti-social behaviour by children with ADHD, following with the students showed that nine-year-olds who received the behaviour management intervention were less likely than other children with ADHD to take up smoking by age 19 or 21.

Early intervention has become a top priority for Canadian health authorities as well. In 2006, Alberta's Health and Wellness ministry provided the AMHS with \$36.6 million in new funding over three years to support children's mental health programs. This included \$25.8 million for a program known as Mental Health Capacity Building in the Schools, which began with five pilot projects in 2005 and is now being expanded to up to 27 other sites across Alberta.

Showcase delegates received a progress report on the five pilot projects from co-leads Lynn Slembrager, Director of Advocacy and Liaison for the AMHS, and Sandra Wertsch, a prominent Edmonton-based educator. The initiatives are: a project in elementary schools in the small southern Alberta city of Brooks to help immigrant youth and their families adapt; another in Calgary high schools that reaches out to students from African refugee families; a program at Edmonton's Jasper Place High School aimed at Grade 10 students, many of them Aboriginal, who are at risk of falling or leaving school due to various social, emotional and environmental factors; and two other projects in northern Alberta—one for students in Peace River who exhibit risk-taking behaviour and another for students in High Level who may face difficulties when transitioning between grade levels.

The common theme in all these projects is the need to involve a multidisciplinary team (including educators, therapists, family



Betty Kitchener, a primary school teacher, a psychological counsellor, a community nurse, a trauma research officer and a stay-at-home mother

Over the years, Australian Betty Kitchener has been a primary school teacher, a psychological counsellor, a community nurse, a trauma research officer and a stay-at-home mother. Ms. Kitchener has also suffered from recurrent major depression, an experience that gave her insight into the sense of helplessness and stigma that is so often associated with mental illness.

"When you're depressed, you feel so rotten, so inadequate, and that just confirms your worst fears," says Ms. Kitchener. "You also have to deal with two types of stigma—the stigma from others and self-stigma. And often the biggest one is self-stigma. I feel it. Your thinking is, 'I'm hopeless. I'm helpless. I might as well kill myself because I'm a burden on the world.' It really is a vicious circle."

Over the past decade, Ms. Kitchener has brought her professional and personal experience to bear on a program that is now helping people with mental illness around the world. Together with her husband, Dr. Tony Jurek, an internationally recognized mental health researcher, Ms. Kitchener developed Mental Health First Aid, which teaches ordinary people how to detect signs of mental illness in others and help them find the care they need.

Since it was launched in 2001, more than 50,000 Australians have been trained in Mental Health First Aid. The course has since spread to Great Britain, Hong Kong, Finland and Singapore. In 2006, the Alberta Mental Health

resource workers and public health nurses) to deal with potential mental health concerns before they reach the crisis stage.

The need for early intervention was also the cornerstone of Alberta Health and Wellness Minister Dave Hancock's closing address to the conference. Borrowing a phrase from Aristotle's Dr. David Olney, Mr. Hancock told delegates, "We can't afford to mend, so we must prevent." He then added, "We must have wonderful our health care system is, we're never going to be able to afford it going forward if all of us need it all the time. To preserve and improve our system, we have to learn how to prevent."

Mr. Hancock urged delegates to take back to their home communities what they had learned from the three-day conference and to continue reaching out to help those who struggle with mental illness. "Thank you for making this an important part of your life," he said. "You are doing very important work."

Board (AMHS) brought the program to Canada and is now coordinating its roll out across the country as Mental Health First Aid Canada (MHFA Canada).

Ms. Kitchener came to Baffin to attend the 2007 AMHS Research Showcase and talk about Mental Health First Aid in a presentation to delegates, she described the program's five-point action plan. First, trainees are taught to assess the risk of suicide or harm on the part of those they suspect may be developing or experiencing a mental health problem. Second, they are told to listen non-judgmentally to these individuals. Third, they are asked to provide reassurance and information. Fourth, they encourage these in need to get appropriate professional help. Fifth, they support the use of self-help strategies.

As with physical first aid, the program maintains that it isn't necessary to be a trained health professional to offer initial help or support. "This is not teaching you to be a counsellor," Ms. Kitchener told delegates, "just as the regular first aid doesn't teach you to be an ambulance attendant or an emergency room triage nurse. This is just teaching you to be the first responder. It's the very first early intervention."

The 12-hour course has been rigorously evaluated in Australia and found to be effective. For example, surveys show that, six months after taking the course, trainees report they are much more confident about providing help and urging people to seek professional counseling. Another study showed over three-quarters of participants had used the skills they were taught.

Ms. Kitchener told delegates the was frankly amazed at the program's popularity. "It's spread like wildfire, which we never imagined," she said. "I really don't think it's all that clever, we simply brought together the information that was out there. I guess it's just the right thing at the right time."

See the AMHS Canada website at www.mentalhealthfirstaid.ca for additional information, including details about upcoming courses being offered across Canada.

The Alberta Mental Health Board gratefully acknowledges the support of the following organizations in presenting this Special Report:



AADAC (the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission) is an agency funded by the Government of Alberta to assist Albertans in achieving freedom from the harmful effects of alcohol, other drugs and gambling.



BC Mental Health & Addictions Services is an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority. The agency provides a diverse range of mental health services to British Columbians and contributes significantly to research and knowledge exchange in the field of mental health.



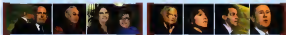
The Mental Health Commission of Canada is a non-profit organization created to focus national attention on mental health issues and to improve the quality of life for Canadians with mental illness and their families. For more information, see www.mentalhealthcommission.ca.



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Saskatchewan Health supports Saskatchewan residents in achieving their best possible health and well-being. Saskatchewan Health establishes policy direction, sets and monitors standards, provides funding, supports regional health authorities and ensures the provision of essential and appropriate services.

On The Cover



The individuals featured on the cover of *Reading Words* were just some of the speakers at this year's ANHS Research Showcase. They are: (Top cover frame, left to right): Gavin Andrews, Scientific Professor, School of Psychiatry, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia; Siles Powderface, Genetic, ANHS Aboriginal Mental Health Studies Committee; Lynn Bandenberg, Director of Advocacy and Liaison for the ANHS, and Sandra Webster, Education Manager, Alberta Education.

(Bottom cover frame, left to right): Jean Ferenc, Chair, AMHS, Göteborgs University, Associate Professor, Göteborg University, Sweden; Peter Colledge, Vice-President, Education and Population Health, BC Mental Health & Addictions Services, Carliory, Professor and Director of Applied Research, Department of Psychiatry, University of Saskatchewan

For more information about the Alberta Mental Health Board, please see www.smhb.ab.ca

For more information about The Alberta Mental Health Research Partnering Program, please see www.mentalhealthresearch.ca

(continued from page 64)

ground level: "I don't accept the Japanese road about the foreign press," he says. "Japanese people are not hostile to foreigners—no at all." In Hyogo prefecture (which includes Kobe), Daito says the local government has been particularly careful about consulting foreign readers. "Three or four times a year the governor has held meetings with leaders of all the foreign communities, to discuss public mass," Daito says. Which made the new regulations even more perplexing. "I was rather shocked. I should make some com-

Davis suggests that U.S. pressure to limit terrorism may have played a role. He even floats one relatively positive theory: "There are a lot of power struggles in government and a lot of big boys who are stirring up the damn mess." "This could actually be a case for a loosening of immigration regulations. Pro-immigration people could say, 'No! We've got the fingerprinting loss, it's safe to let the people in.'" ("While many foreigners can achieve visas allowing them to live in Japan, qualifying for a working visa or full citizenship is usually far more difficult.")

Aruda doesn't think so. "Japan has no real policy on immigrants except backward immigration through programs to fill factories with cheap labour," he insists. "They've never had an open-door policy in the post-war era. The Japanese government is afraid

FOARD PROTEST: 'the Leden could come in and leave before the system checked him'

crafting consensus by scolding people into thinking there's a threat."

And discouraging personal tourists to write to the Japanese government expressing their unwillingness to travel to the country in light of the new regulations, although he admits it is unlikely to have much effect. And surely pilgrims intent on visiting the Grove of Jesus Christ will hardly be dissuaded by the prospect of fingerprinting. They may even wash the system had been in place a couple of millennia ago. Those files would be gold. ■

Not exactly the easiest movie to rate



WILDFERS' film could lead to sanctions—even attacks

BY PATRICIA TREMBLE • It is a 15-minute film that hasn't been released, but already Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende has warned that his country could face economic sanctions and attacks because of its NATO/Secretary General Jaap de Hoopoff's warning that his organization's troops in Afghanistan could "find themselves on the line of fire" because of it. Made by Dutch MP Gerrit Wilders, *Hitscan* named after an Arabic word that can mean "grill" — and Wilders said

Wilders, leader of the nine seat Freedom Party, has previously warned of a "transatlantic Islamisation" as the Netherlands, home to 1.5 million Muslims, and has even suggested it will show that the Quran is "an inspiration for uncleanliness, murder and terror." A new paper report of an early version says it links bloody tragedies in the Muslim world to passages in the Quran, and ends with a picture of the Prophet Muhammad, which Muslims consider blasphemous.

the Quran to Hinder's *Moon Kampf*. Because of his views, he is under police protection. He's said that if broadcasters won't agree to show the whole film in the coming weeks, he'll post *Qisas on the Web*.

Though the TM erected what his government doesn't share "Western" views, Balkenende is clearly worried about a repeat of the 2004 worldwide riots and boycotts after a Danish paper printed cartoons seen as Muslim-bellied were blasphemous. Mohamed Rabbi, chairman of Holland's National Moroccan Council, is trying to dampen any potential reaction. "We will have succeeded it, after the film. We don't want that, if it's the case there are no riots and Muslims are more democratic than he thinks." But in Afghanistan, there has already been anger. On Sunday, demonstrators in Mazar-i-Sharif burned Dutch flags and called for the withdrawal of Dutch troops. ■

M15's secret star wars with Hitler revealed

BY MAMIE MACDONALD • To outwit Adolf Hitler, British spies even lured to the stars, according to top-secret MI6 files recently released by Britain's National Archives at Kew, in West London. Sometimes, in the early 1940s, Louis de Wohl, astrologer, big-game noble and cross-dressing sex vivand, managed to dupe MI6. Britain's eminent security service, once believing that he could generate the Führer's confounding wartime strategy

[illegible]

ANTHROLOGER didn't stand a chance against the Führer

German's love of uniforms and rank"). De Wohl was temporarily named a captain and provided with a grand hotel apartment on London's exclusive Park Lane. The silk-gown-loving mystic would later dub himself Kessler's "State Secy," and claim to have fought Hitler (a Thutur, through and through) with "star warfare."

His role, however, appears to have been restricted to propaganda. In the summer of 1941, Churchill sent *Wohl* on a U.S. lecture tour in hopes of turning this neutral Wash. editor into creating the war. Armed with binoculars and good humor, *Wohl*, then 37, was warmly received stateside and told American audiences that a "doomed" Hitler could be "done away with within a year."

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor shortly after forced America's hand, and Miyagi was one of the first readers, who, upon returning to London in 1942, found his spine set in scribbled lines. His wasn't just shadowing the Reich's road on the planes. One trusted officer reported that none of De Wold's drawings had been shared, except for the one of Italy's entrance into the war—which was "quite useless to anybody with the slightest knowledge of international affairs." ■



ROBERT FRIEDLAND has made two of the greatest discoveries in mining history. But, so far, his Mongolian adventure hasn't yielded an ounce

DESERT DREAMS

Robert Friedland just wants to save the world. (And maybe mine a little copper.)

BY JASON KERRY • This spring June, you can in Mongolia, all 14 million of them, go to the polls. ("Mongolia Votes 2008" may not have the same ring to it as that other national election, but for investors in Vancouver-based Ivanhoe Mines, including the company's complementary founder and executive chairman, Robert Friedland, billions of dollars are on the line.

When Friedland announced in 2001 that Ivanhoe had discovered a promising copper and gold deposit at one of the most desolate places on earth, Mongolia's Gobi Desert, skeptics were quick to dismiss it. Then, slowly, the full scope of the deposit came into focus: Oyu Tolgoi (or Jirgankhan Hill), as the area is known, isn't just big, it's huge—an unparalleled source of metals that, at today's soaring costs, easily prices in a mine worth \$18 billion—15 times the size of Mongolia's

entire economy. London-based mining giant Rio Tinto is now a crucial partner in the project. And because of Friedland, other miners have flocked to Mongolia. You could almost say Friedland struck the motherlode, except for one nagging problem: not one ounce of commercial metal has been dug out of the ground since he revealed the find.

Now Oyu Tolgoi is at the center of a political firestorm over the future of mining in Mongolia. And Friedland, who'd wanted so desperately to bring the mine to life, has been forced into the shadows as the project faces delays and opposition says a war of attrition against foreign mining in the country.

Things looked so promising just a few short months ago. Last July, Ivanhoe and Rio Tinto reached an investment agreement with the Mongolian government to develop Oyu Tolgoi. Following nearly five years of talks, Mongolia would take roughly a one-third stake in the project, while Ivanhoe and Rio Tinto would control the rest. Finally, it seemed, the dream of Oyu Tolgoi would become a reality. So much for that.

In January, the government of Prime Min-

ister Sang Bayar, faced with a public backlash, withdrew the deal from parliament where it was waiting for approval. Both Ivanhoe and Rio Tinto have warned that if talks continue, they might halt work on the project. Yet the talks continue to move at a crawl.

Mongolia may suffer from mining unemployment, rampant poverty and an economy that hasn't changed much since the Mongol horde rode out to conquer the world 800 years ago, but the country has quickly evolved to the power of playing hardball with resource companies. Twenty years ago, officials scribbled on the world map and jotted at the chance to cut the ribbon on such a project. Not anymore. In an age when natural resources are seemingly inexhaustible, there are ferocious political points to be scored by fusing down big business. "Mongolia's Huge Chinese deal," Dorji Williams told in a *Northwest* interview. "Alorski's deal in the free-trade market are demanding all companies reach up more as competitors." "All governments want to lock the golden goose," says John Lee, president and gold analyst with investment bank Morgan Pharmaceuticals. "The Mongolians see this as an opportunity to do a lot of playing."

Both sides have vowed to work toward a new agreement before the election. And juggling them from a room far up in Boulder's skyscraper, some investors believe that will happen. But other observers have serious doubts. Last month, *ENR* (Environmental Research and Analysis) ranked Ivanhoe his target price for worries about development costs rising fast—production at the mine will likely be delayed until at least

2001 while its initial cost could jump 48 percent to \$16.6 billion, his worry in a report.

It's a divergent opinion. Any politician who signs on to a deal in the heat of the campaign risks being branded a sellout by opponents. And in a country as fiercely proud as Mongolia, that's not a political suicide. "We're going to happen and after the election," says John Derkes, a professor at the University of British Columbia who has visited Mongolia numerous times and is following the Oyu Tolgoi situation closely. "Not with the prospects of being able to produce in person, going to run off with 95 per cent of your gold. People are going to resist that."

It may be that all the attributes that make Friedland a great woodsman are the very things that have knotted the project off the rails. The only question now is whether he, or anyone, can get it back on track in time.

FOR INDIVIDUALS in business are as polarizing as Robert Friedland. In mining and investment circles, he's revered for his ability

to promise to earn him a small fortune. Instead, it earned him a reputation he's spent the last 15 years living down.

And accusations by environmentalists that cyanide from Sarametille was killing fish, Galaxie that down the mine in 1992. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency went after Friedland, who eventually agreed to pay \$16.6 million to help clean up the site without accepting any liability. What gets his gears is the fact the U.S. government later admitted no single person was responsible for the problem at hand, and repaid Friedland's legal bills. But the episode dogs him on this day. Even in the most distant parts of Mongolia, people know Friedland by his unflattering sobriquet Toxic Bob. The early controversy made a fighter out of Friedland and formed his reputation as a religious defender of his reputation, never once suspicious of the press. "I'd just rather not get involved," one analyst says in declining to be interviewed for this story. (Friedland did not grant an interview either.)

How could it be that a former *Woods* Street journalist had unearthed not one, but two world-class mineral deposits in the span of a decade? Friedland, of course, discovered the massive Valey's Bay nickel deposit in Labrador in the 1980s. After playing two stints of Canadian mining, Inco and Falconbridge, off against such a bet, he unloaded the project on Inco for \$4.3 billion. It took years to make Valey's Bay pay off at that price, but the deal cemented Friedland's future. Could his mining really come true?

Any lingering doubts about Oyu Tolgoi were quelled in 2006 when Rio Tinto's offer to buy a 15 percent stake in Ivanhoe. But unlike Valey's Bay, Friedland refused to bid no place to bid the project for a huge profit. Instead, he wanted to see it through to the end. "We want to be the builder of Targuine Hill, not the seller," he said in 2002. "This is not Valey's Bay all over again." Associates say Friedland wants to be seen as more than a spectacular speculator. He wants to build mines and own them, like



MCMOULGAN PHOTOS team here working in an exploration shaft at Oyu Tolgoi in 2006

to unearth new discoveries and whip markets into a frenzy. At the same time, environmentalists and human rights activists view him as a scourge to be thwarted. Friedland's journey from hippie to rock promoter to a staff of legend. Or make that ditch. After a stint as a Portland conglomerate firm in the 1980s (where he'd helped Apple Computer's Steve Jobs) and a spiritual journey through India, Friedland gave up behavior life for the murky world of the Vancouver Stock Exchange. His first venture, Galactic Resources, was an Sarametille gold mine in Colo-

radia bought the Mongolian property from Australian mining giant BHP in 2000. Within a year, Friedland was boasting there would more copper and gold than has previously thought. The Ivanhoe pitch evolved ramped up the scale of the riches buried beneath the sands. And as with any master salesman, Friedland branded advertisements found their way into analyst and media reports. "Brighton Beach discovery" became the marketing slogan for Oyu Tolgoi.

But for many of its investors, the pitch was spinning about Mongolia was too good to be

Oyu Tolgoi contains metals valued at \$300 bln. But getting a mining agreement done won't be easy.

the major do. There was only one problem: some of Friedland's gift for mining investors also angered his Mongolian hosts.

Things began to unravel in 2005 when Friedland took the stage at an investor conference in Florida. Opening his remarks in Mongolia, he told the eager crowd, would be like having clothing "for the walking Indians for five bucks and selling them for \$100," he said. "That is a robust margin!" To Mongolians, he sounded like another Western prospector, ready to strip their lands and leave them with little in return. Protesters booed Friedland in effigy. And as his comments spread, they sparked the backlash that helped derail the investment agreement in January, and threw into question whether Friedland would ever make good on his dream of developing one of the world's great mines.

AT ONE TIME Friedland dined for hours and rode cattle to present the mine. Yet overnight he seemed to vanish. By 2006, Friedland had resigned as CEO, keeping the low public role of chairman and paying the way for current boss John Mackenzie. Meanwhile, Rio Tinto has taken over the task of negotiating with the Mongolians. "Friedland both helped and hurt Mongolia," said John Mackenzie, executive director for the American Center for Mongolia Studies. "He used to consistently

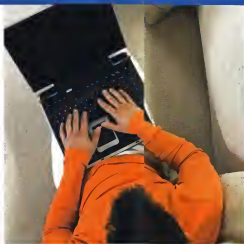
[Innovation in Action]

The Mobile Workforce Revolution

Since the days of the horse-drawn trolley, "white-collar workers" have commuted to work in office buildings where clock-watching managers measured their time and attendance. Now, advancing technology means more employees can work full-time from home or on the road—and actually be more productive. In an interview for *Maclean's* readers, Diane Horton, IBM Canada's Human Capital Management Practice Leader, explains why more workers are going mobile.



▶ Diane Horton,
IBM Canada's
Human Capital
Management
Practice Leader



“Once they go mobile, employees say they tend to be 15% to 30% more productive.”

Q You lead a group that helps employers deploy more staff to work from home rather than “the office.” Why should business be considering such a move?

A Technology isn't a panacea today where companies have many options on how their employees go to work. They can work in a remote office, at home or in a co-office shop.

Once they go mobile, employees say they tend to be 15% to 30% more productive. Think about the time it takes

to commute to the office. In some cases that can be an hour-plus each way. What we find is that mobile employees tend to give the company back one hour of that time, and they take one hour back for their own use.

Plus, when you're working from home, you're just not getting interrupted as much as you do in a traditional office. You can get more done.

Q Is this a model that more businesses and organizations should be looking at?

A Definitely. Many, many companies are looking at mobility, and there are several reasons why. For most businesses, for instance, real estate is a huge expense. If you don't have everyone in the office every day, you can reduce your real

estate costs. Another reason is that in some cities, such as Calgary, companies are running out of space. They need to continue hiring and growing, but there is no place to put people. Many companies are also looking at mobility to help them attract talent or retain people within their organizations.

Q What kinds of savings do organizations see when they go mobile?

A It depends. There is a cost to get people ready to be mobile: asking them they have a laptop, a cell phone, the right collaboration software. There's also a lot of change management involved in making a program like that effective: getting managers on board, making sure employees are comfortable with working from home. When IBM rolled that program out in the 1990s, we looked over in the first year. Going forward in Canada we save millions of dollars in real estate over a five-year period.

Q Are some organizations still skeptical about this concept? It's pretty counter-intuitive that people are going to be more productive at home than at work.

A First of all, when you begin a mobility program you need to make sure you're picking the right employees and the right managers. If an employee is not going to be working hard at home, they're probably not working as hard in the office, so you may have some performance issues there anyway.

And it's important to look at the way you measure how people are performing. Don't evaluate people based on the fact they're at the office eight hours a day. Measure what they're accomplishing, and both sides will be happier.

Secondly, you can adopt technology that ensures you can get in touch with people. At IBM we have means-managing software. When you're working from home, there's an expectation that you're going to be accessible at any point during the day.

Q How does going mobile affect an organization's clients?

A Many employees in mobility programs are “client-facing,” such as sales people, so when they don't have to go back to a traditional office, they tend to spend a lot more time at their customers' sites.

Q How do companies accommodate mobile employees who come into the office once in a while?

A You need to change the way your office is designed. When employees work from home three or four days a week, they come into the office for a reason—usually, to collaborate with their colleagues. So companies need to look at creating more meeting space. And when people are in between meetings, they need small “touchdown” spaces where they can sit, make a few phone calls and do some quick e-mail.

Q Why is mobility a subject of such interest to IBM?

A Mobility is important to IBM from two perspectives: it's important for us internally, to provide options for our employees; it's a key way that we work. But we now also have a worldwide offering that helps companies get their mobile program up and running. It leverages skills and capabilities across our entire consulting practice—human resources, change management, IT and software. We can help organizations think about how the program's doing once it's launched.

To view the interview, please visit www.macleans.ca/ibm

Register for the Innovation in Action Online Summit, May 13, 2008

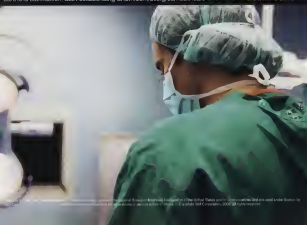
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Business

Why we really hire real estate agents



STEVE MASON

Human beings are not particularly rational animals. Some people jog at 6 in the morning on the winter. Others adopt more cats than they can easily care for. Some even cheer for the Kansas City Royals. The examples are everywhere, and you economists always seem surprised.

Practically every piece of economic research runs upon the fragile foundation of the rational actor: that people will, when properly educated, act to maximize their benefits, minimize their costs and pay only what something is really worth. But out in the real world, there is an intricate relationship between money and rationality: the more money is involved, the more irrationally we behave. Nowhere is it more starkly obvious than in the housing world of real estate.

The relative wealth of real estate agents is well-illustrated territory, both in academic circles and the marketplace. Real estate industry groups have contributed volumes of research over the years, all of which come to the same center offering conclusions for realtors: people who sell property with the help of an agent get a higher price than those who don't, but there are obvious holes in all that research—far one thing, the industry has analyzed itself so effectively over the years that few people even try to sell their homes privately anymore, and those who do tend to have less valuable homes.

And so, we still wonder: what exactly do agents offer to justify commissions of five per cent or more on the sale of a home?

Turns out, not much, according to a new study from Stanford University. To answer the question definitively, researchers E. Douglas Bernheim and Jonathan M. Naeffz conducted a century's worth of data, covering a particular set of homes, all roughly similar and in a single neighborhood, where buyers and sellers all fit into a roughly uniform demographic group. And this place would have to have a relatively large number of deals, split between people utilizing their homes privately and those employing an agent. The lab they were looking for was right around their office windows. The Stanford campus, with its roughly 800 homes, provided the perfect economic petri dish to put the real estate industry to the test.

The study looked at 616 home sales between the start of 2000 and the end of 2004, 95 of which involved agents. (In earlier years, agents were often seen in the same campus, but in the past decade brokered sales have come to represent about half the transactions.) The average commission paid in these sales was six per cent, or US\$14,000, a hefty chunk of change, especially considering the result: "We find no evidence that the use of a broker significantly affects either the selling price or the initial asking price, though it does lead to a more rapid sale," the authors write. So in the end, you're paying more than thirty



Hiring a realtor doesn't make economic sense

grand to save a little time. Not rational. And they charge accordingly. It's easy for economists to look at the dollar and cents of real estate deals and conclude that the broker industry, and its US\$64 billion in commissions collected in the U.S. last year alone, is nothing but then there's a case of effective marketing trumping financial wisdom. Doing their best impression of Mr. Spock, they would describe emotion as an "anomaly," a foreign force getting in the way of the efficient operation of the market, creating an unnecessary drag on the system. In fact, it's just the opposite.

Well, there are the practical concerns, of course—getting a listing on MLS, plus all the paperwork and advertising—but all of these things combined are worth no more than a thousand bucks. No, the real reason we hire realtors lies in something that can't be easily captured in an economic model. Economists do very well concerning greed because on some deep level we don't like to admit, greed is logical. But economic reasoning with that other fluidly financial human emotion, fear, because it often isn't rational at all. And fear is where real estate agents make their money.

Realize—the financial planners, childless dream and fortune tellers—bring the recurring illusion of expertise to an inherently terrifying experience. As you embark on what will likely be the biggest financial decision of your life, they put you on the back, and you everything is going to be okay, and there you waive to sign. As

Maryanne Garber pointed out in her 2007 book *Six And Real Estate*, "realtors and home agents often find themselves functioning as therapists, psychologists, and marriage counselors." And they charge accordingly.

It's easy for economists to look at the dollar and cents of real estate deals and conclude that the broker industry, and its US\$64 billion in commissions collected in the U.S. last year alone, is nothing but then there's a case of effective marketing trumping financial wisdom. Doing their best impression of Mr. Spock, they would describe emotion as an "anomaly," a foreign force getting in the way of the efficient operation of the market, creating an unnecessary drag on the system. In fact, it's just the opposite.

In a market permeated by emotional, erratic humans, the most rational thing the world can do is seek someone capable of offering as open with emotion and get the deal done. By doing so, they actually grease the wheels of commerce, and help the system run far more efficiently than it every homeowner were an agent unto themselves.

In that sense, really worth it (\$600 on the sale of a \$100,000 house)? That all depends. Irrational humans do a lot of crazy things to keep their checks. ■

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Suddenly, Google's not so invincible

BY DOUG CAMPBELL • Two months ago, Google's stock price was at an all-time high. It was making money hand over fist, and was, said many observers, truly immune to signs of trouble in the broader economy. Here's how wrong they were.

Case in point: Google's share price has fallen from \$700 to \$470 last week. Suddenly, uninvincible Google has a few thorns in its armor. The root of its troubles are mounting fears that the online ad market will weaken along with the economy. Google makes money by helping search



FALLING stock prices could spell trouble for Google's Eric Schmidt

engines to paid ads, and ad sales are typically an early victim of any economic slowdown.

Kearney this year, Google CEO Eric Schmidt said the company wasn't seeing any ill effects of a recession. Some industry watchers were doubtful at spending might even grow as companies shift smaller ad budgets to the Internet. That may have been fanciful thinking. A report last week by eMarketer Inc. said the number of people clicking on Google ads fell seven per cent in January, spurring a flurry of speculation that Google isn't as insulated from a recession as many thought, and ending its stock price by another 10%.

But there is still debate over the real culprit behind Google's bad numbers. The consensus reads as "overblown" and overdone improvements Google has made to boost the revenue it makes off of each search (even at the expense of overall volume), said IDC analyst Jordan Baker, in a note to clients. Even Comcast came out in support of this assessment, stating that there was no evidence of a broader "slowdown in consumer clicking on paid search ads."

Many analysts say Google stock isn't worth close to \$700 a share. Regardless, investors are now having to face a hard truth—Google may be great, but it's no longer perfect. ■

For CEOs, charity begins at home

BY JOSH DENTON • Giving large chunks of change to charity is one of the only things filthy-rich CEOs can do to get a bit of credit from watchdog groups. But to few wealthy individuals, even these generous handouts may often be limited by greed.

By focusing on 151 gifts of at least \$1 million in stock from 109 executives to their family foundations, David Sternick, a finance professor at New York University, discovered that many bosses have a knack for making donations when their company's stock is peaking—which is perfect for maximizing their income tax break.

He offers two plausible explanations for how this might occur: insider knowledge and backdating. In the first instance, a CEO could time a gift—before or after results are made public—to ensure the donation is made when the company's stock is high. Sternick found that 25 of 151 gifts that came soon after results were released followed good news. And of the five donations made right before a earnings announcement, four peaked before and a sharp drop in the share price. Currently, insider trading laws aren't enforced on gifts, he says, providing a huge tax loophole. Backdating, he says, is possible since charitable gifts, unlike the selling of stock, don't have to be reported immediately. There too, accountants have plenty of opportunity to be creative with dates. Who's to say exactly when that gift was made?

The widespread opinion backdating scandal involving executives a couple of years



TIMING of CEO's donations could be suspect, new research suggests

ago makes him skeptical that philanthropy—donations to family foundations and other charities—is totally free of it. Sternick, who hopes his research will help change rules of disclosure relating to charitable giving, has notified the Securities and Exchange Commission of his findings. "The chance that this is all coincidence," says Sternick, "is around 50 to one." ■

Starbucks goes back to coffee camp



BARISTAS at U.S. Starbucks were given tips on "espresso excellence"

BY NANCY MACDONALD • For 3½ hours last week, Americans were deprived of flavored frappuccinos as, all across America, Starbucks went black. At \$100 a hr, Tuesday, a nationwide 7,100 stores shutdown for a mandatory barista boot camp. Inside, staff were treated to a friendly re-education that included handouts on "espresso excellence," a videotaped "how to" on steamed milk, and lessons in charming up customers. Some Canadian stores will follow suit this week.

To some, including the ragside *TIME* Starbucks Union, Starbucks' surprisingly public move was a case of 21st-century corporate terrorism for staff, who already have a harder on the stomach. Nevertheless, it sent a loud message to the investment community and to shareholders: we've heard your concerns about the dip in quality. And we're taking action—big, bold action.

Recently disgraced Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz, the Brooklyn-raised executive who engineered Starbucks' explosive 300-year growth, ordered the unprecedented shutdown as part of an effort to revitalize the Starbucks "experience." That's been downgraded as customers complain of the erratic smell of microwaved egg sandwiches, long lines and the chain's increasingly darkish lattes. Schultz, who openly bemoans the level-based coffee isn't his "soul," has released a series of gripping emails of late, outlining his "transformation agenda," and a promise to reinvent the "passion and chaos" to Starbucks branches.

The company's stock value was nearly halved in 2007, and has declined 11 per cent so far this year. The chain, which had sales of \$9.4 billion last year, is being battered by competition from McDonald's and Dunkin' Donuts—which offered small loans, capex and expenses at the pre-announcement period of 30 cents throughout last week's closure. ■

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Doesn't anyone go to jail in this country?

Canada's greatest scandals have ended in a shameful lack of convictions

BY PETER C. NEWMAN

"The innocent is the person who explains nothing." —Albert Camus (1913-1960)

The quarter of troubling episodes that played out over the past two decades shattered the reassuring Canadian myth that we are a peaceful kingdom, unswayed to harm one, and expect to be treated the same way. The collective impact of these events left no doubt that we had joined the mainstream of history at last, and it was hell. Each incident exposed our individual and collective comfort zones, weakening the moral trust that sustained our beleaguered society on an even keel.

But that wasn't what made those events so disturbing. What hurt was the 36-billion-Bre-X scandal, unlike Red Cross distributing tainted blood that ended or imperiled the lives of fewer than 20,000 Canadians, the destruction by a 300-mph winds of an Air India flight, our bailout from Canada, that killed 329 passengers and crew—or the inconceivable flow-toppings of a prologue whose dirty testimony raised doubts of them—what burned these tragedies into our collective was that despite lengthy investigations and, in some cases, endless trials, not one of the major perpetrators was found guilty of any crime.

One exception was prisoner number 18300-414, the media tycoon formerly known as Conrad Black, who began serving his 75-month sentence in an American prison last week. His fate also reflected on Canadian justice, since the most serious of his criminal convictions—obstruction of justice—was committed at his corporate headquarters, 110 Toronto St., which is a few blocks from the Ontario Securities Commission that has yet to hold any hearings into his activities. Unlike the courts in Chicago, the OSC postponed its hearings into his out-half's crimes twice. To take their prosecutive tactics to their most bizarre dimension, they may or may not be ready to deal with his

Canadian-based company just as 18300-414 became Conrad Black again and expects to return to his roomy small house, and the sense of the still compelling Babi.

THE TRAGIC TALE of Bre-X—the most widely scandal in mining history—was not widely narrated up by Dr. Eugene Nisenz, the former physician who attended to David Walsh, the company's founder and CEO, when he suffered his last stroke in 1998. "Aside from his brain aneurysm," the good doctor concluded, "Walsh was in excellent health."

It was the perfect epitaph for the man and his work.

Aside from being a far-out fraud, Bre-X was an excellent gold mine.

One of the few investors who beat the Bre-X scam was Ralph Hirsch, a former friend of mine in Calgary who had great success playing the market. His writings were based

on never becoming a company until he did his own due diligence. He was having lunch at the Three Gourmets, a downtown bar, back in the fall of 1994, when he stopped a paunchy and disheveled man who spent the next hour or so perched on a bar stool, looking back at him while he looked over and passed out. When Ralph inquired about the drunk's identity, he turned out to be a bar regular, David Walsh of Bre-X, there staring at him as if to say, "That's Hirsch, my companion, in all the due diligence I need!" He never bought a single share of the Canadian company that turned out to be the most successful mining swindle of all time.

Until Walsh looked up to him in his home office, however, he was a worthless Alberta Stock Exchange shill, offered for sale in two cents a share. The hype that followed, which was amplified while by Ray Street hucksters, eventually raised Bre-X stock to

a stunning \$206 a share and a market capitalization of \$6 billion.

Just 40 days before the Bre-X scam proved to contain only fogs, John Felderhof, the tough talking mineowner in the rough who was the company's vice-president, vice-president, and chief geologist, declared that he felt quite comfortable with his estimate that the Bre-X discovery was good for 200 million ounces of gold. At the time, the world's largest mining open pit gold mine, on the Indonesian island of Irian Jaya, had gold reserves of 93 million ounces. At it turned out, Bre-X's only amount of value was the 300,000 in gold bars and 800,000 ounces to sell the owner of the 368 diamond drill

holes used to explore the property.

The threat for telling the prospect was never determined, but it fell by default on Bre-X geologist Michael de Guzman, who was Felderhof's long-time buddy and senior assistant. He made the perfect scapegoat since he had jumped to his death from a helicopter taking him back to the mine site just as independent investigation into the property's actual worth had begun to stir. In retrospect, de Guzman's motives were not that clear. His stress-level issues have been of the chronic, he was returned to four weeks simultaneously, and feared daily that his wife was bound to find out about the scam. His health was shot. He had been severely injured in a car crash and had recently been diagnosed with an acute rising case of hepatitis B, a menacing liver disease.

Even Peter Smith, Canada's (and later the world's) largest gold mine proprietor, was lured into the act. "They knew that if they signed up with us, we would do our own due diligence—Felderhof and de Guzman couldn't afford that," he told me at the time. "We had our field engineers, our drilling rigs on the ground but Felderhof that the door on us. It wasn't until that morning when it was

announced it was a fraud that I jumped for joy. Suddenly, the whole thing became crystal clear. That was why they kept on saying that there was more and more gold and just their shareholders to say, 'Don't force us into this deal.' It had been mixed with depression when filed the deal. Nothing worked, and suddenly, the moment it was revealed as a fraud, I went from a deep depression and a psychosomatically induced flu to health in 45 minutes. It was like someone opening up a window in a totally dark tunnel. Everything—all the morning, all the day, all the inconceivable little details—everything finally made sense."

The only Bre-X official eventually charged by the Ontario Securities Commission was John Felderhof, who was accused of eight counts of falsifying false information and having special insider knowledge when he sold an estimated \$70 million worth of Bre-X stock between April and October 1998. He denied any guilt of any kind. Graham Perle, chairman of Saskatchewan Mineral Services, the Toronto consultant who announced his definitive findings on May 5, 1997—first Bre-X had no ore body but only said drill holes—served at the trial. For whatever reason, that there had been clear signs of wrongdoing

George Diemeyer lost \$800,000 while perpetrators of the giant Bre-X mining scandal have never been convicted • Marc LaPrise was infected with HIV and hepatitis C from tainted blood products supplied by the Canadian Red Cross • Leta Fede lost her husband and two daughters in the Air India bombing • William Mulline-Johnson was wrongfully convicted of the murder of his four-year-old niece owing to evidence anchored by Charles Smith's opinions



which should have been reported. "On the criminal issues," he told the court, "nobody will ever get me to change my opinion that if somebody had been on duty properly for 15 years would have all the experience that Mr. Felderhof had, he should have someone alongside who taught that there was a problem."

A year earlier, Felderhof, who had crossed most of his life-X years in Capeworth Island rest estate, transferred the assets to his then wife, Ingrid. When she bought him a Lamborghini for Christmas, he assigned the gift with his usual grace: "It's two seats strapped to a flying engine," he complained. "I think he's trying to tell me that." On July 11, 1997, John Felderhof joined the select group of Canadians sent first by a judicial system that, for the many victims of the Red X crisis, did not deliver justice. After a seven-year trial, Felderhof was found not guilty of all charges, and now lives with his new wife in grand splendour on the island of St. John's.

The live-X crisis had triggered some useful advice from Warren, the New York City investment banker—a warning that ought to be displayed in print: point above every stock market player's desk. "When the lead goes off of a speculative gold-mining company falls out of a helicopter, sell the stock."



the players Acquitted of all charges in the huge live X mining scandal, John Felderhof today lives in St. John's. Ontario pathologist Charles Smith considered himself an avenging angel

NO BOTTLED CLIMATE of dog-eat-dogs, the Red Cross was once an organization that touched the lives of Canadians in only the most compassionate way. Children took part in their first aid and water-safety courses; the elderly were comforted by their home care nurses; victims of disasters looked to the Red Cross for succour, clothing, temporary shelter and food, and were never disappointed.

Then came the 1994 contamination of inquiry into Red Cross operations by Ontario Court of Appeal Justice Horacio Korman. There almost immediately revelations of how this supposedly compassionate organization dithered in the face of a growing catastrophe. According to the judge's report, the Red Cross deliberately enhanced its inventory of old blood products, vulnerable to HIV contamination, before making any, then-treated blood products available. In the end, more than 1,000 Canadians innocently exposed to transfusions acquired HIV and many others died, some after unknowingly infecting their second partners. At least 30,000 other transfused Canadians were infected with hepatitis C, a viral infection that can lead to liver failure. At the same time, the Red Cross devastated the ranks of Canadian hemophiliacs, who depend on clean blood transfusions to live. It was difficult to believe these death-dealing decisions were made not by some malicious-way-walker but by good-doers chosen to relieve human suffering.

The last word comes from beyond the grave. Randy Cormier of St. John's, an engaging social activist, spoke for his ghostly band of victims, as he was himself dying of AIDS from a Red Cross blood transfusion. "It's just plain murder what they did," he said with understated bitterness but no condescension, "strong into a product they knew was going to kill you."

THE GRAVEST ACT of contemporary terrorism before 9/11 was the placing of explosives aboard Air India flight 182, scheduled from

Toronto via Montreal, which exploded on June 23, 1985, off the west coast of Ireland, sending 329 inhabitants to their fiery deaths. Alone to go on trial for the Air India bombing were Republican Sinn Féin Maik and Apath Singh Bhatt, two Sikh extremists who were

the tapes that CBS knew exactly what was going to happen, but didn't have the legal levers to report. So it destroyed the evidence James Bartleman, who was director of security and intelligence for the Department of National Affairs at the time (and later served as lieutenant-governor of Ontario), testified that he passed on an intelligence document to the RCMP that warned of an attack on the Air India flight that very week. This was days prior to the actual bombing. Bartleman and others had information about an attempted attack in plenty of time to stop it. No one paid their attention.

Among the incoherent culprits was John, the Quebec provincial police dog named to enforce explosives. Serge Cormier, his handler, was called to Montreal airport to assist the baggage and placed of flight 182, because that week of the RCMP's attack dog that was usually on duty had been sent away on a

THE LATEST DRAMAS launched onto our weary landscape has been Dr. Charles Smith, who for several decades was Ontario's senior forensic pathologist, looking into suspicious child deaths. The recent hearings into his record unveiled him specially making egregiously incorrect conclusions, following loosely gossamer procedures, and providing intensely skewed court evidence. His testimony damaged dozens of lives, forcing men and women who had done no wrong to suffer humiliation and imprisonment.

He has earned a high place of dishonour on this because he has two renowned ties, no matter how many a court at judgment or his attorney does refuse with his first apologies, and regardless of how previously his victims' lives were damaged. The victim Dr. Smith was usually those for his controversial was a provincial inquiry that probed his witnesses from prosecution. No matter how incriminating

for a new way of thinking about how sorry he was about almost every professional thing he'd ever done, the lie went to the heart of his character. I figured that with his record of wilfully repeated ineptitudes, there was no way he could have tried them properly, and that he was bound to try at some point during his trial proceedings. He acted like a man with no conscience of gravity, incapable of determining anything as simple as evidence or plain common sense.

One key piece of crucial trial evidence in the case of William Miller-Johnson, who spent 12 years in prison for the murder and sodomy of his 16-year-old niece, was hidden in the trial room's janitor's closet. For months that the man before it was destroyed during a 2005 search. In a 1994 case having to do with possible incest and manslaughter, Smith mislabeled the crucial DNA evidence, mixing up the samples involved, and then sent the wrong specimen to the Ontario Forensic Sciences. One mother spent 16 years in custody charged with the murder of her seven-year-old daughter, on the basis of Smith's conclusions, while another expert quickly determined the girl had been molested to death by a vicious dog.

This man was a witness not only to himself but to the very nature of justice because (as he admitted during the hearings) he did not act as an objective scientist, but considered himself to be an investigating agent on the side of the Crown. His testimony proved the crucial evidence that sent Matthew-Johnson to prison. (After subsequent criminal room could support the claim of sexual assault and homicide, the Ontario Court of Appeal acquitted him and the Crown's pathologist for the horrendous miscarriage of justice.) Matthew-Johnson turned out to be the only person who proved the crime of Dr. Smith's pathologically pursuing success. "I'll never forget [what you did to me], but for my own healing... I must forgive you," Matthew-Johnson told the wayward pathologist. For once Dr. Smith didn't have his usual gossamer apology. He was moments truly struck silent, and perhaps in that instant realized at last the magnitude he had caused to many lives. In his case, Canadian-style innocence had tripped reality once again. That the possible kingdom is no more. ■

the evidence

A piece of the ill-fated Air India jet recovered from the Atlantic following the terrorist bombing. Blood collected by the Red Cross after the tainted blood scandal broke



course. The flight took off before Air India could do its briefing. No suitable documentary could ever be made of this evolving tragedy, maybe a caution.

Many other moments occurred during the investigation and the trial. For example, all the legal agencies involved were asked to identify a mysterious companion who joined Farmer and another known associate in Denver, B.C., for a test run of false explosive. Two CBS agencies directly followed the Farmer duo and the "third man" onto a B.C. ferry. It was a sunny holiday afternoon, with everyone snapping pictures, and would have been a sight to behold a photo of the mysterious companion. None was taken because the CBS agents forgot their cameras at home. (No Neader was named Inspector Chouette.)

his testimony, the inquiry is bound to be strictly as a fact-finding vehicle and perform to deliver "without expressing any conclusion or recommendation regarding professional discipline matters involving any person or the civil or criminal liability of any person or organization."

The list of Dr. Smith's mistakes is daunting. Watching the diagnosed physician fumble



HOW JESSICA SIMPSON HURTS FAT PEOPLE

Jessica Simpson has tracked a fat friend who she appeared in back in 2008, wearing a light of red and white. She appeared a multi-millionaire woman. That included the sponsor, a friend of hers, and company owner Alex Altman is living, saying Simpson did understand work, when he asked for a reboot. Altman says, Simpson heard. And he claims he isn't the only victim in this issue, according to Simpson is "bawling into the face of fat people."

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LOCAL SCHMOCAL

Just because a food is 'local' doesn't mean it's the better choice BY PAMELA CUTHERBERT

taste

Being 'local' food has proven so trendy that the *New Oxford American Dictionary* named "locavore" the word of the year for 2007. "Locavore" is the spelling preferred by some. The discrepancy is a sign of how early in its evolution this concept is in spite of gangbuster popularity, especially among eco-foodies. But what precisely does "local" mean? The ideology is loosely equated with good: fewer food miles are spent on transport; local economies, including locally-run farms, are supported; the environment causes our climate; in the north as do consumers' consciences. Imaginations run free and even the locavores are said to local idyllic lives. Naturally, the more is superior. It's a tall order.

Step into a big box supermarket and you'll find produce, meats and other goods that fit the bill. But the fact is, the majority of "local" items from the industrial model-farms grown with conventional, destroying fertilizers and sprayed with pesticides that prove resistant, farm to fork, animals raised in inhumane conditions using cheap labor for maximum profit and yield, genetically modified crops and more. Even the question of spend food miles is easily spun closer inspection: locally grown foods can leave a large carbon footprint depending on the mode of transport and other conditions including storage systems.

"Do we understand what we're buying when we buy local?" asks James L. Minimo, organizer of the Guelph, Ont., organic food conference where this year's peak forum, a gauge of the provocative topic du jour, was "Organic, Local, Fair Trade—All of the Above Or None of the Above?" Minimo is interested in seeing the local myth demystified, but says it won't be easy. "Setting standards for identifying local products is tricky, beyond the distance travelled."

Supermarkets are where many Canadians get their groceries, so to reveal the sales of my local supermarket in search of local foods. It was surprisingly easy, even in mid-winter



LOCAL apples may have been sprayed; organic ones aren't

Ontario, to fill the shopping cart with goods that meet the national standard: the federal government's Canadian Food Inspection Agency regulates the use of "local" as generally meaning food that has travelled no more than 160 km from where it was grown or processed. After a quick survey of local goods on offer—free battery-free eggs from "local" broiler producers, Maple Leaf Foods, I stuffed

on a dish of pork and apples to see exactly how the grub measured up to the ideology.

In Ontario, a number of new marketing organizations buying about the local train—such as Homegrown Ontario, a year-old marketing campaign from the sheep, veal and pork farmers associations—apply the "local" label to promote wide goods. Keith Robbins is with Ontario Pork, the farmer-member alliance that represents roughly 1,000 pig farmers in Ontario. Homegrown's typical small pig farms in Ontario has roughly 5,000 sows each year, where each animal is fed on a ration of genetically modified soybeans and corn that is enhanced with antibiotics and

growth hormones, to a mature weight of about 250 lb in a period of six months. They are raised entirely indoors—a common practice in commercial pigfarms starting in the 1950s—with an allowance of about 100 sq ft of light, feet per animal. Robbins says these intensive rearing methods are needed to compete in the marketplace. "Pork is the most consumed meat in the world," and being in the game means "lowering our costs to meet the food market." Robbins says the buyers are particularly demanding: Canadians currently spend 10 percent or less of their income on food, which is the lowest ratio anywhere.

Now to that source of local apples, which at this time of year are nice and crisp thanks to biotechnology in energy-sucking refrigeration systems. Growing apples on a commercial scale in Ontario is challenging, in part because wet conditions make the crops more vulnerable to pests, especially a persistent fungus called scab. So fungicides are needed. The U.S. consumer advocacy group

Union Environmental Working Group inc. consistently buying organic apples since conventional ones tend to be contaminated with pesticide residues. It is this case where buying organic—and important—is better than buying local?

Canadian Organic Growers head Laura Bedford is a level of the "organic versus local" debate that has been raging lately, especially

STYLING: AMBER

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CLYDE HILLMAN

MACLEAN'S MAY 17 '08

MACLEAN'S MAY 17 '08



"THERE'S a snafu on the wedding day," says one photographer, "but it's entirely OK. Here's an opportunity to capture genuine surprise."

Are 'engagerazzi' creepy or cool?

The newest thing in proposals is to have a photographer jump out of the bushes

BY CATHY GIBLIN • Casey Fitchett is a wedding photographer who has been hired more than 10 times to capture candid photos as the couple-to-be's unsuspecting girlfriends. At a not too long ago took Fitchett on a job that seemed New York City—permeated by him and the groom-to-be—in the couple's favourite café, then to a dreamy spot in a park, and finally, to a river for the romantic close. "I was trying to get close, but not too close," says Fitchett. "I didn't want her to think that this was all following them."

However, while it may seem, having professional photographers to respectfully capture that intimate moment is becoming the latest creative way to pop the big question. Fitchett's received more than a hundred requests for information. Think deep the diamond-cut as a gift of champagne, but roses, candles and even fireworks. In the age of MySpace, Facebook and Twitter, marriage proposal photography reflects the growing "need to document everything about your happiness," wrote one person on Fitchett's, an "unusual woman's blog." "Now playing: U?"

Options abound. Propose on a private airplane with Gulfstream Business in Kissimmee, Fla. The "ICR Proposal Package" costs US\$1,000, a photographer and/or a hand-crafted 34-foot tall paper garbo adorned with doves where the couple can engage. California's Romantic Room Designs charges US\$150 to set up and take pictures of a romantic beach bedtime proposal at dusk. Whether the setting, Cavanaugh Photography in Sydney, Australia, promises to document the "proposal, the excitement, and the excitement, unobtrusively, using high end camera lenses."

Stash is impressive. "You live out the James Bond fantasy. There's all kinds of private investigator stuff to do," says Fitchett, who charges US\$100. "You have to be a really good photographer, but also part spy and part actor." If the proposer (who in Fitchett's case has always been a heterosexual) doesn't want him to get too close, they place a schedule ahead of time, and then test message through out the event about their precise locations and the best positions for lighting.

To get right there, Fitchett has belted whatever could go wrong—stress, status, financials, bushes, champagne. If the proposal is happening in a popular area, he'll pretend to be a tourist and snap photos within stress of the couple. One time, Fitchett got too close. The girlfriend noticed him standing nearby for as long as 10 minutes before he came in hand—and called him out in her boyfriend's. "She said, 'I think there's something wrong with him. I think he's taking our picture,'" Fitchett recalls. The man played it down, and quickly got away. After the incident, says Fitchett, he was called, the woman squealed, "I know it." And she liked it. Of course, "it's probably not for everyone," says Erik of R&B Photography in Harris, Ont., which she runs with her sister Ryan. They have been warning and advising to do proposal jobs for a few months, but haven't

found any couples willing to try it out yet. They suspect that's partly because it's relatively unknown. Dave Cheong of DQ Studios in Calgary says that, so far, "it hasn't been that popular in Canada," and he doesn't view of many photographers is offering the service. Links and Ryan Rowell also recognize that some people wouldn't want that personal experience caught on film.

Critics claim marriage proposal photography is a potential and even outrageous. "It's another creepy thing that men do to women," writes William Salomon on enr.com, and "the worst are to men they are all the photos that they are not working." Others, such as Jessica Wagner of www.1000000.com, say it's as invasive as the fabled *Jeune et Jeune* proposal. "Most women didn't want to be photographed without their permission, and they really like to keep their 'life after' moments to themselves," she describes (or not) at their own discretion," read a recent post.

Maybe. But for couples who have had their proposal snatched by "engagerazzi" (an online community site related to the photo), the picture immediately became a source of record. "There's a moment on the wedding day, but it's anticipated," says Tanya. "Here's an opportunity to capture another level of emotion, it's genuine surprise."

So what happens if the proposer says no? Fitchett says that's never happened to him. But if it does? Says Ryan, "We would walk away and pretend like we never were there." ■



WHAT THEY GOT FOR IT: PRESIDENTIAL HAIR
Four months of hair and to be from The Great George Washington, the first President of the United States, were sold at auction for US\$17,000—far less than the US\$75,000 the auction house had hoped to fetch for this strange collectible. The hair, deemed authentic by the Historical Society of Montgomery County in Pennsylvania and purchased by a RICHMOND, Ky., man who requested anonymity, is believed to have been clipped in 1857.

books



LIBRARIEN, biographer, poet, novelist and playwright Victor-Louis Bouchard, 62, just published his 70th book. He celebrated by burning it.

VLB wants to knock my teeth out

Quebec's prolific man of letters takes on the author of "This Is My Country, What's Yours?"

BY NADIA RICHELLE • It's hard not to be impressed by Victor-Louis Bouchard, or "VLB," as he is known in Quebec. The 62-year-old specialist in the province's most problematic areas of fiction, and often classically out of place. An essayist, biographer, poet, novelist and playwright, VLB has written voluminously about Voltaire, Voltaire, Victor Hugo, Honoré de Balzac, Jack Kerouac, and more recently James Joyce. *La grande école*, due to be published in the novel VLB published last week, is his 70th book.

In one of his typical reviews of public debate, VLB chose to celebrate its issue by burning it. Launching *Paris/Quebec* Leader-Préface, Moore's protest of the teaching of English in the province's elementary schools, VLB declared that he did not want to be a part of the death of his nation's history. "I don't want to become an anglophone," said VLB. "I want to conserve, preserve, defend and improve the language into which I was born, the language my ancestors gave me."

A few years ago, Bouchard had published about 50 books. Quebecers were bemoaning their dearth, and in 1998, VLB's first novel, *La grande école*, was published. The small village on the north shore of the St. Lawrence where he grew up. It's the place he would have grown up, having learned that after long years in Montreal, a city he considered as a kind of political prison and lost to the mainstream scene. "I don't want to return home for my book, *This Is My Country*, What's Yours?" Our common was to be a divisive and flowing, even though a couple of dogs as well as a cat, along with a trail of droppings, were sweeping between us in the house. I will not forget how VLB, with his head white hair, and small, piercing eyes behind the wire-rimmed spectacles, fixed his

gaze on me to see if I would flinch at all during his intense display. Everything possible for VLB, even a sheep in the kitchen.

VLB's compelling ideas. He brings every which way and type them with crude passion. Shortly after I interviewed him, Michel Tremblay closed question the path that the PQ and Bloc Québécois were taking and VLB told the playwright, who so far only put out on the stage, so "Vain" and "Go back to Florida." Profoundly Marxist, not exactly a saint when it comes to Quebec's anglophone, VLB has described as a "traitor" VLB can also be wildly, casually, self-approving. It coincides with his next novel, VLB would have been assuming that he would not be giving interviews for two months, such was his despair at the state of the world. VLB has long been in the habit of grand pronouncements, and when he speaks, the province listens—for entertainment or, if you're an ardent supporter, for a bit of patriotic fervor, a dog in, and someone new to life.

Most recently, the new person in town, and my book, with a critical portrait of VLB, has just been released in French Canada as *Mon pays, c'est au Québec*. Now, with a degree of some satisfaction, I find myself in the company of Marlon, Tremblay—and, of course, my father I am, says VLB, "un homme, un fils de bétail, un homme de la terre," and

whose with VLB threatened to knock out should I gain through *Two Pivotal Agents*. The interview, recorded in Radio Canada's *Le monde*, around a fire in the fireplace, and may even have done the book a good turn, as these things go, though it is a pity that the book's release in Montreal was the first time to take the separatist tent or the live radio show that was a special occasion, and the absence of a pre-record, let the old film roll on like a soundtrack, *Les Éditions du Minotaure*.

Still, I liked dropping by in person, the quality of literary criticism and debate in the francophone Quebec media in the new vigors that English-Canada's most prominent time. Quebecers have more confidence in their literary arguments because they understand in their heart that culture matters.

And so, despite VLB, or even because of him, a bigger part of it is a nostalgia for his presence, whose ardor he says, as I've often heard in English Canada, "I never met Canadian fiction," and where the many arguments about society that *Le monde* engender are real and at the forefront of the minds of so many people. There are the issues, but Quebec is still the best place in the country for a bunch of the talk to be in a show a bit more table and talk about art and culture and the latest literary story alongside the very real and dramatic issues concerning the economy and the war in Afghanistan. And the best days open late. ■



FINALLY, A BOOK ABOUT... THE FIRST GLOBAL AGE
Those who think globalization is the blessing of the century of our times should look hard, argues Tracy Brook's enthralling *Vanessa's Melancholy*, at the image painted by the 17th-century Dutch master. Here a soldier's hat is made of North American beaver pelts, there a woman stands beside a Turkish slave, quite possibly bought with silver mined in Peru. For the first time, trade in slaves, silver, and skins was knitting the globe together.



WHEN MILLIONS of people in Europe started protesting the Iraq war, former cheerleaders like the author of *The Ghost* soared in Blair

A novelist's revenge on Tony Blair

In *'The Ghost,'* a (familiar) recently retired British PM is rumoured to be a CIA agent

BY MARK STEYN

If ever there was a trial "Tony Blair writing live" it was surely the massed ranks of Bush novelists. They leashed Thatcher ("Mrs. Tinker"), as the pro-Iraqi Salman Rushdie used to call her), yet "old Labour," with its knuckle-dragging union bosses and old-school class warfare, wasn't exactly their bag, either. So when Blair's Third Way hit his "New Labour," just like Bill Clinton was New Democrats, it was all the things for a while, perhaps even neo-conservative or rather Middle East in preparation to unleash himself as New Taliban.

If you had to pick a day when it all went south for Blair's young cheerleaders, it would be Sept. 11, 2001. That afternoon Londoners, as the news towers were crumbling in New York, Jo Moore, a British civil servant, watched the TV and fired off an email to her colleagues in the Department of Transport. "It's now a very good day to get out anything we want to buy." That was the New Labour way: the dark arts of spin, media manipulation and madman ranting. (Blair's Iraq war earned some international satellite or other with a rock simile of God Save The Queen.) But in the rubble of lower Manhattan the British prime minister found something that for once he didn't want to spin, and in the end he was the one who got his act.

Initially, Robert Harris was with him, as he'd been since the early days. Thirty years ago Harris was a young "left" voice on Rupert Murdoch's *Sunday Times* and a fresh hand on the *Observer* called him up to propose a novel. "I thought, 'Very nicely, very metropolitan, and as Blair told Harris, 'It's about the anti-metropolitan bias in the

party. We've got to rethink all this.' And so he did. On election night 1997 Harris overtook New Labour's landslide victory from a man across the aisle from the great one on the Blair's private plane. When he wasn't consulting the young prince on the reviving of Britain, Harris was a bestselling author of historical fiction. His huge hit *Archangel* is one of the great alternative-history novels, what if Hitler had won the war? (I mention it only because the Canadian Adam Carr gets a dose of Murdoch's "legendary interview" cuts a ton of plot lines from any review of Robert Ferguson's who? novel *Prophets For The Assassins* as if they were fact.) "Archangel" so helped make British newspapers might like to take newsworthy of "Rebelled in the 'human rights' constitution on the grounds that they're flagrant neo-Nazis." Anyway, having crushed one great evil, Harris thought he was another in the page turner of his. And, for a while at least in the fall of 2001, his news on the enemy were so robust that *The New Statesman* and other leftish journals started naming the poor chap as the runner-up to obvious psycho wannabes like you may truly fear the Danger on the door of the Week news.

And then came Iraq, and the millions of protesters in the streets of Europe, and the failure to find Saddam's weapons of mass destruction. And, like so many other former cheerleaders, Harris soared on Blair. Now of history's pal, however, he's started to question a message on the prime minister's *The Ghost*. A third who pro-Iraq was rumoured by many to be Blair's choice for official Iraq negotiator has a casual warning a recent *City* devoted to what the few journalists regard as the "ragged" of the Blair reign. The com-

ing in "Adam Lang," a recently retired British prime minister who once in the alien and was out a year. The theft of biography in the *Cherry Coast* bookends begins with Adam Lang. *Stations For Our Time* and works its way up to *World War Adam And The Collected Lang/Adam Lang* ("Adam and the" being Cockney rhyming slang for "follow"). Both volumes are by the same author, who evidently has undergone the same process of journalistic delusion as Mr. Harris. When first we glimpse the former leader, he's on TV as a poster at the "Wildfire" station, repelling a wave of smoke-bombing. "How will it be now have had the image seen from London," he says, "where next again the forces of freedom and civilization..." At which point the narrator says:

"Nothing he uttered that night warrants repeating. It was almost a parody of what a politician might say after a terrorist attack. Yet, thinking him, you would have thought his own wife and children had been evicted as the blast. This was his language to rebuke and elevate the debris of politics by the sheer force of his performance."

But what's he like after the performance? "How was New York?" asks his wife, Ruth, when he lands on Martha's Vineyard. "Great," he burbles. "They gave me the Gallifreyan Rose—you know, the transatlantic one, with the bells and the shower."

Golly. The real Blair always had a very un-British personal style, and no doubt the Gallifreyan Rose is more luxuriously appointed than the place he and Robert Harris shared back on election night a decade ago, but it's really only a bit for the status sake. Unfortunately for "Adam Lang," the Gallifreyan Rose, belonging to a company called "Billingsley," was previously used to transport fair at Quanta suspect British special forces illegally handed over to the CIA.

And so, being possible war crimes charged if he returns to London, Blair finds him self hauled up on the Vineyard out of season during a cold winter. It's the prime minister himself who it out of season, abandoned by the crowds and unsure if they'll ever return. And the same mood is as chilly as the lead scope, as if the cheerleaders of the bare branches and frost he used tracks has seeped into Harris's pen. *The Ghost* is a title with multiple meanings: on the one hand, it's the narrator—the new prime minister Mr. Lang tries to win his autobiography after the old one, the former republican character. It's also the prime minister himself, not just in the same old, out of office, but it's worth the living dead snarled suspiciously from meeting to meeting in the Americans' Gulf states. In many ways, since Adam Lang is less an argument than a conspiracy.

Which presents the ghostliness with a bit of problem. "That was when I realized I had a fundamental problem with my former prime minister," the narrator informs us, as he sets down to craft the Lang "autobiography." "He was not a psychologically credible character. In the flesh, or on the screen playing the part of a politician, he seemed to have a strong personality. But somehow, when one sat down to think about him, he vanished."

In *The Ghost*, Harris attempts to explore why for him and his dream is the great unknown—why the most gifted progressive reformer prime minister the Labour Party has ever produced for himself and his country became the image of a right-wing Thatcher, a cowboy war monger, and without getting anything in return. This is, to put it mildly, an unimpressive analysis. The price of getting the British to hold down the lower third of Iraq five years ago was that Bush was propped up by Blair to go by doing through the United Nations for an extra six months through the fall and winter of 2001/2002. During that time, Saddam would have WMD off to Syria or wherever, and the "peace"

now being considered from a book fringe to a great second part of global discontent. In other words, poor Harris, the hapless Blair drove was necessary deal for Bush. He'd have done better to invade Iraq earlier and while out the Brits. But, if you're looking at it through the silver end of the telescope, as Harris is, you read another explanation. And so the book works with rumours that "Adam Lang" was a CIA agent, recruited at university, placed in a safe constituency and groomed for Downing Street.

Harris is a skilled writer, and his tale is well told, right down to a warning ending that reveals the reality of the novel's overt character with his old lunch companion. Adam Lang is an empty suit of a prime minister who performed a kind of ingenuitous corner trick on the British people. But is that really what happened? Some of us look at the other way around: under New Labour, the hospitals, the schools, the roads, the towns got worse. And after 9/11 the phony Blair's control-freak nanny-state got the big question mark. Last November, Blair to open up to reporting "the war," Tony Blair told the BBC, "I can't say what I don't believe... If there's anything I regret," he continued, "it's not having had one for people in a clearer way that was the profound nature of this struggle and the fact that it was going to go on for generations." That's what he did with gold news accepted, and so they started for alternative explanations: angry war, Bush wrong, CIA agent. "The story that we're selling is an old-fashioned lie," Blair is quoted, "that our march for this fight is limited and I believe they think they can win on it. Our determination has got to search them and our will has got to be stronger than theirs and at the moment I think it is probably not."

Very Blair was a leader who ran out of follow. As skilled in *The Ghost* undoubtedly is, you can't help feeling that the explanation has not yet been the prime minister but the British nation. ■

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COMPILED BY BRIAN WICKHAM

Fiction	
1 LATE NIGHTS ON AIR by Christopher Isherwood	1,000
2 GOOD BEHAVING BABY by Kate Atkinson	4,000
3 THE APPEAL by John Grisham	8,000
4 BEFORE GREEN GABLES by Ruby Redmond	6,000
5 PEOPLE OF THE BOOK by Geraldine Brooks	7,000
6 WORLD WITHOUT END by Ken Follet	4,000
7 HISTORIES OF THE SUN by Simona Steleni	10,000
8 REMEMBER ME! by Stephen King	10
9 A THOUSAND SPLINDLING SUNS by Michael Chabon	1,000
10 FALLING by Anne Lamott	10
Non-Fiction	
1 IN DEFENSE OF FOOD by Michael Pollan	7,000
2 MUSCOPHILIA by Oliver Sacks	4,000
3 IN THE REALM OF HUNGRY SHOOTS by Greer MacAllister	2,000
4 THE GREAT JESSIE by Geraldine Brooks	6,000
5 THE SEXUAL PARADOX by Simon Singh	10
6 EVERETT'S HAT by Terry Brooks	10
7 AN APPLE A DAY by John Schmitz	4,000
8 JANE BOLLYN by Julia Fier	10,000
9 THE AGE OF AMERICAN UNRAVING by Tompkins	10
10 THE SUN FLAMES BLOW by Tompkins	2,000

LAST WEEK CHANGED ON LIST

CRAIG ARDEN LAWRENCE

1973-2008

An urban planner by trade and a fireman at heart, he juggled work, his radio and a long-distance love

Craig Arden Lawrence was born in Calgary, Alta., on Dec. 7, 1973, the eldest of three brothers (Kelly and Robert came next). His was a difficult birth, and the doctors warned Jan and James that their baby boy might have suffered brain damage. "After that, we looked closely at every milestone," his mother says. First says. First words. First birthday. By age two, it was finally clear that Craig would be fine.

He was an adorable kid, with messy red hair and his mother's pale skin. When Craig was 14, his grandma bought him a magnificent Christmas gift: a shiny new low-farewest helmet, headlamp and all. Craig never took it off, and it sat at bed-side.

"We went through I don't know how many hazards," Cecilia recalls. Craig loved his toy fire truck as much as his Lego blocks. He built miniature towns and landscapes and, of course, fire stations—and he always followed his imagination, not the instruction manual that came in the box.

The Lawrence boys grew up in the hooded rinks of Calgary. A defenceless, Craig was not a natural talent, but nobody greeted him like a work ethic—both on and off the ice—was relentless. "It led the type of life that makes others feel guilty because he never stopped," Kirby says. He made the honour roll every year, ate tater tots or drink, and when other teenagers were wasting time at the mall, Craig was waiting tables at a restaurant. One night, he came home from work with a "new" coat of steel firefighter's jacket, light brown with yellow stripes. Kirby told it to him, and like his plastic helmet years before, Craig wore it everywhere. Indeed, he had a fashion sense all his own. Whether it was purple suspenders over slacks, or those hideous tie he wore to work, Craig was not the type to follow trends. "If he liked his own fit, he didn't much care what you thought." His dad then mounted gold earrings that made him look like a Century 21 agent. Kirby says: "We would hug him carnally about whether he sold any houses today. But he would just smile that goofy smile and take it."

It was his unique style that first caught the eye of Erin Brinkley. After graduating from the University of Calgary, Craig transferred to Dalhousie to pursue a master's degree in urban planning (those Legos felt a lasting impact, he always said). In 2001, he took a job as a planner in Texas, where he finished his thesis. Erin worked in the same government office. They were pals at first, but their friendship soon evolved into something more. "He never really cared what people thought about him, which was one of the reasons I was attracted to him," Erin says. "He was such an individual."

And about one fulfilling lifelong dream, Craig had the town's volunteer fire department. If he wasn't at work, or with Erin, he was responding to a 911 call. "The greatest thing about Craig was that he knew what he wanted out of life, and he would fight really hard to get it," Erin says. He achieved one of those long-term goals in August 2005, when he was hired as the director of planning and development in Chermore, Alta., a town of 21,000 just outside Calgary.

Despite his new job, Craig and Erin wanted to stay together. For the next 4½, they lived a long-distance relationship, a love story full of phone calls and plane rides. "We did not take each other for granted,"

Erin says. "We really valued our time together because we knew it was so precious, and we always said when we were finally living together we would appreciate each other more than most couples do because we were apart for so long."

In Chermore, Craig immediately joined the volunteer fire squad—79 before. Nobody can recall a single moment when he wasn't carrying his two-way radio, ready to drop everything (Kirby said). Even during Christmas dinner, his family would hear the whistling of the dispatcher clipped to his belt. (Speaking of Christmas, Craig was known to dress up as Santa. One year, when he couldn't find his red suit, he borrowed a co-worker's Halloween costume: a shark. He stuck around in the yard and famously handed out gifts to "The Christmas Shark.")

After their wedding last May, Craig and Erin were finally on the verge of living together. She applied for permis-

sion to resettle in Canada, and by the new year they had a plan: Craig would come to Vancouver in April, and together they would drive the 4,800 km back to Alberta. But in January, an emergency suit was mailed back to Erin earlier than expected. Erin was in a car crash, thrown by another vehicle. "He said 'You're lucky. If the guy hit you an inch more to the centre of your car, the outcome would have been totally different.' " Though bruised and shaken, Erin was able to walk away.

A month later, on the morning of Feb. 24, Craig was back in Chermore, behind the wheel of his silver Honda Civic. Driving down Range Road 284, he steered left onto Highway 1. As he made the turn, an eastbound Ford Focus plowed into the driver's side door. Yellow fireflashes from 19-5500 rushed to the scene. "I don't think he would have wanted it any other way," says Doug Durrey, a close friend who was among the first to arrive. As always, Craig's two-way radio was with him in the car. ■

BY MICHAEL FRIEDLANDER



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